

New Jersey - http://home.planet.nl/~puparo/new_jersey.htm

DeCavalcante family

In 1930 NJ boss was Stephano Badami with Sam Monaco as his underboss.

10 September 1931 Sam Monaco disappeared and the new boss became Filippo Amari.

31 March 1955: Stephano Badami was stabbed to death in a restaurant.

19 May 1957: Louis Larasso and underboss Frank Majuri were part of Nick Delmore's New Jersey family who replaced Phil Amari when Amari returned to Italy on 19 May.

Nicholas Delmore is the boss till 1961.(? or 1965) The new boss became Samuel DeCavalcante. DeCavalcante's underboss is Frank Majuri. DeCavalcante's partner in the plumbing business was Larry Wolfson whose sister Harriet Gold had an affair with DeCavalcante.

In 1961 starts the FBI to tape the New Jersey boss DeCavalcante. In the famous tapes was one in which they listened to DeCavalcante, Ray DeCarlo and Anthony "Tony Boy" Boiardo (the son of "the Boot" Boiardo) in which they recollect an old murder. Also there is the tape of a conversation between Anthony "little pussy" Russo and DeCarlo and Russo said that Boiardo burned the bodies of his murder victims at a grill at his estate what he also does sometimes for the Lucchese family.

26 February 1965 DeCavalcante was approached by his soldier Gaetano "Corky" Vastola and sold for him 1100 pounds stolen shrimp.

26 February 1965 talk DeCavalcante, his underboss Majuri and their capo Louis LaRasso and Gambino's men Nicola Melillo and James Failla "Jimmy Brown" about the garbage hauling racket. (Failla was an officer in the Manhattan Trade Waste Association, controlled Rosedale Carting and National-Stage Carting Company. In 1989 hypodermic needles, surgical gloves and catheters discovered at Staten Island landfill near Arlington RR yard, site of Rosedale dumping. In 1991 Failla's trucks dumping toxic waste from metro NYC in mountains of WV. - Mafia Dynasty pp.256-6; was capo for "Big Paul" Castellano in 1985 - p.232.)

19 April 1965: Joseph Feola "Jimmy Surprise" disappeared and the police found out the reason because of the DeCavalcante tapes.

9 June 1965: Gambino and DeCavalcante dine and Gambino said that he replaced his underboss Joe Biondo by Aniello Dellacroce and as consiglieri he had Joe Riccobono.

In 1969 the FBI published the DeCavalcante tapes, they had taped from 1961 till 1965 and for the tapes DeCavalcante got 15 years. (not accurate)

16 December 1969 was DeCavalcante arrested.

John Riggi became the new boss of the DeCavalcante family.

Oct. 1978: George Francenero was a lawyer for the Newark board of education at one time. He was involved with Louis Turco, president of the board at the time, and with James [Baby Jim] Quelli, principal of East-Side High School "down neck."(?) Quelli got whacked in his front doorway in North Arlington, NJ.

Beginning 1980 (? - see below) bookmaker George Francenero, the brother of singer Connie Francis, was killed. He had quarreled with DeCavalcante boss John Riggi. Francenero got hit in 78 or 79, and Turco went to jail. No one was ever charged in the murders of Francenero and James Quelli. Whether they were connected is anyone's guess.

In 1981 Dominic Pillari pays money to DeCavalcante boss John Riggi.

In September 1981 meeting between Catalano and DeCavalcante soldier Francesco Polizzi. Polizzi's Uncle Anthony Riela is a Bonanno capo in New Jersey.

6 October 1988: Fresolone taped a meeting with DeCavalcante boss Riggi.

Mid-october 1988: Teamstermember Harry Serio shot to death in his office.

6 November 1988: Fresolone gets money from Salimbene for Riggi.

John Riggi the boss of New Jersey is threatened with a jail sentence and in the Spring of 1989 Salvatore Gravano (Sammy the Bull??, consigliere to Gotti), DeCavalcante boss John Riggi, acting boss John D'Amato and underboss Jimmy Palermo wait for Gotti but he (Gotti) thought he was followed and didn't go to the meeting. [Note: D'Amato is 'acting boss' for Riggi]

DeCavalcante soldier Virgil Alessi talks to Barry Nichilo, a man of the Genovese family. Salvatore "Sally dogs" Lombardi, who works for Benny "Eggs" Mangano and Nichilo talks to Gravano and at

Christmas 1989: meet Salvatore Gravano, Virgil Alessi, DeCavalcante acting boss John D'Amato, John Gotti and Frank Locascio, Gotti's underboss.

2 January 1990: Fresolone, Pillari and DeCavalcante boss Riggi meet. The DeCavalcante family has only 10 members now. The DeCavalcante boss John Riggi got 12 years but was threatened, thanks to the FBI, with a life sentence and was replaced by D'Amato. When DeCavalcante-Riggi capo Gaetano "Corky" Vastola got 80 years on a Rico count (20 years on narcotic charges per Mafia Dynasty p.322, hit was to silence Corky) and Riggi suspected Vastola of squealing, Gambino boss Gotti ordered Vastola to be killed but police told Vastola who stays alive. Vastola's brother in law is Danny Annunziata.

In November 1991 former DeCavalcante underboss John D'Amato was killed by capo Anthony Rotondo and Vincent DiChiara at the orders of acting boss Vincent "Vinny Ocean" Palermo, the body disappeared.

DeCavalcante member Joey Ippolito was a champion power-boat racer and was allegedly suspected in the murder of champion racer and power boat designer Don Aronow, in Florida. Aronow is a good friend of George Bush. Ippolito associated with Bonanno member Ronnie Lorenzo and with Rod Colombo who was murdered in Philadelphia. He ran a restaurant in California with 2 of his brothers and was a big marijuana smuggler. In 1997 Ippolito was serving a 10 year drug sentence and because the bosses didn't trust him. His brother Sam was shot 12 September 1997 in New Jersey.

10 October 1998: Langella's (who?) nephew Anthony Stropoli tries (or wants?) to beat up DeCavalcante associate Joseph "Joey O" Masella but Masella was killed that day by Westley Paloscio at the orders of DeCavalcante boss Vincent "Vinnie Ocean" Palermo. Also Anthony Greco was a suspect in Masella's murder. Greco was later indicted with over 40 men of the Decavalcante and the other New York families.

3 March 1999: a DeCavalcante crew drives to a mob "sit down" and among the talking were soldier Joseph Sclafani (62) who works for capo Anthony Rotondo (42) and DeCavalcante man Robert "Bobby Basile" Occhipinti. They talk about the series the Sopranos and were bitching about the New York families.

In July 1999: Neil Lombardo pled guilty to shooting Sam Ippolito.

<http://www.geocities.com/organizedcrimesyndicates/philadelphia.html>

Other NJ Mob information:

see jpg Simone_Trenton

- New Jersey Genovese capo Gerry Catena: The most important mobsters in New Jersey were Zwillman and Genovese capo Gerry Catena. Catena had been Costello's lieutenant after the shooting of Willie Moretti in 1951. Gerry Catena was very close to Longy Zwillman, and other non-Italian wise-guys. His top guys were Decarlo, Boiardo, the Pecora brothers, Pete La Placa, Phil Lombardo and Gene. Gerry Catena was married to Kay and his brothers were Gene, Tony and Frank, they came from the 'Clinton Hill' section of Newark. Catena controlled most of the taxi medallions in Newark in the 40's and 50's. Gerry Catena owned with his brothers the Colonial Inn in Newark. His Newark headquarters in the 50's and early 60's was Shorty's Bar on Broad St, underneath the railroad tracks across from where the Lincoln Motel was [formerly a Holiday Inn]. Shorty's was owned by 'Shorty Kranz' a close associate and boyhood friend of Longy Zwillman [Shorty and Longy]. In 1964 Jerry Catena tried to introduce a new washing powder at the market with his brother Gene but the big supermarket chain Atlantic and Pacific (A&P) refused it. In the next months 5 of their shops were destroyed by firebombs and in December 1964 A&P franchise-owner John Mossner had two attempts to torch his store. On 5 February 1965 Mossner shot to death and within a month another A&P franchise-owner was shot. Catena's fronts Irving Koplan is president of Local 464 of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Joseph Pecora is from Teamsters Local 863. He also has working for him as a soldier Frank Varfailo. Jerry and his brother Gene had to appear before a grand jury and the terror stopped. Catena was the official family underboss and resided in South Orange. He also was reluctant to become the official boss. He was one

of the most well diversified racket guys of all time, his legitimate holdings were enormous. He was well vested in Vegas, his inter-mob connections across the country were without comparison. Therefore there was really nothing to be gained from becoming boss. After Vito died in the winter of 68/69 the news media began to speculate that Catena was the 'new boss' the ruling body of Catena, Miranda and Eboli had been in place for most of Genoveses' incarceration so no immediate change was needed. In the fall of 69 the sky in NJ came down on the Genovese family and Catena along with his captains Ray "Gyp" DeCarlo, Richie "Boot" Biordo and the Pecora bros [Timmy and Tommy Murphy] all received grand jury 'invitations'. In Dec. 69 Judge Lacey imprisoned Catena on a contempt charge. He remained in jail until 76 when the US Supreme Ct ruled his imprisonment as unconstitutional. Miranda was way up there in age and not really a factor in 69/70, Eboli on the other hand was not as well heeled money wise, politically or socially and jumped at the chance to run the family's lucrative interests. There is speculation that Phil Lombardo really called the shots during this period, which makes sense because of his friendship and similarities to Catena. Catena retired and moved to Boca Raton FL when he was freed but remained a significant force in retirement to both the family and to the landscape of organized crime in general. Speculation is that he represented the Genovese family when Castellano, Corallo and others plotted to eliminate Galante. His gambling interests were national. He had interests in South America and the islands. Among his legitimate interests were Ruynon Vending, Bally Manufacturing [Bally International', cpc corp], Hellmans Mayo and Best Foods.

- New Jersey Lucchese capo Sam Accardi: Settimo "Sam" Accardi was the Lucchese capo in New Jersey but he got deported in the late 50s or 60s, his crew was taken over by Ham Delasco whose crew was later taken over by Anthony Acceturo.
- New Jersey Bonanno capo Zicarelli: 21 June 1960 Zicarelli (from the Bonanno family) phoned Hudson County democrat Cornelius E Gallagher. Between 1958 and 1972 sat Gallagher in Congress, Gallagher will sit 17 months in prison for tax evasion. In August 1968 Life Magazine publishes an article about phone talks between Hudson County democrat Cornelius E Gallagher and Zicarelli.
- NJ Genovese capo Provenzano: In 1963 Genovese capo Provenzano felt threatened by Walter Glockner who asked questions at a meeting of the union about accepting just another gangster on the payroll. The next day he was shot to death in front of his house. Provenzano's men were the brothers Gabriel and Salvatore Briguglio and the brothers Thomas and Stephen Andretta. Pasquale Macciarole had owned a freight company in Jersey City, NJ. He was a loan-shark and partner of James Napoli with whom he had to stand trial. There is a theory that he and Briguglio had tried to take over Local 560 while Provenzano was in trouble with the law. Briguglio had introduced Picardo to their gang and then Picardo had become witness. 21 March 1978 Salvatore Briguglio was shot to death by possibly Joe Sullivan in front of the Andrea Doria SC at 165 Mulberry street where also lays Umberto's Clam House, Cortele and Casa Bella and Benito's II restaurant at 163 Mulberry (famous because at 163 police found the heroin stash which was squealed by Luciano in 1923). Some say at the murder scene were Matty "the Horse" Ianniello and Provenzano, the last stood trial at the time for bribery with Anthony Bentro. A few days after the murder Provenzano and Bentro got convicted. A few months later Provenzano and Konisberg stood trial for the murder of Castellito. In 1978 Castellito's killers Provenzano and Konisberg got life, thanks to witness Ralph Picardo. K.O Konisberg told the police about a mafia cemetery at the chicken farm of

Joe Celso in New Jersey, police find there 3 bodies. At Phil Moscato's landfill police think lay the bodies of Anthony Castellito, then in December 1972 Armond "Cookie" Faugana and Jimmy Hoffa "disappeared" they were allegedly killed at the orders of Provenzano. Provenzano also got 20 years extra for extorting Seatrain Lines, one of the biggest container moving firms of the US. 23 March 1978 the body of Pasquale Macchiarole was found in the trunk of a car along the road in Canarsie, Brooklyn. Later witness Peter Savino testified that Macchiarole's murderer was Salvatore "Sally Dogs" Lombardi who was imprisoned in October 1992 with Joey "Mann" Maniscalco, Allie Boy Cuomo and John "Moose" Marone, but was spoken free of the murder in the other case against Lombardi was the witness Tommy Demino who had worked for Maniscalco. Macchiarole had been killed some time earlier but the same day his body was found police find the body of Patrick Presenzano who was connected to the Genovese in Brooklyn; he was a suspect in narcotics selling in the Fulton Fish Market area. The same day also in Brooklyn was found the shot to death Americus Scotese who was connected to the Colombo's. (Pasquale's son John Macchiarole was murdered a few weeks after his father). Salvatore "Sally Bugs" or "Sally Balls" Briguglio was a long time associate of the Provenzano brothers. Sally was also a business agent for Local 560 {teamsters} long controlled by the Provenzano's. {Anthony Salvatore and Nunzio} According to informer Ralph Piccardo Briguglio along with others murdered a rival loan shark {possibly Cookie Faugno} in 1972. Sally Bugs was also one of those believe involved in the 1961 murder of Anthony Castellito who butted heads with Tony Pro for control of LOCAL 560. Of course Briguglio has always been one of the chief suspects in the disappearance of Hoffa. In May 1978 Briguglio, Tony Pro and K.O Konigsberg were set to go on trial in upstate New York for the 1961 murder of Castellito. Briguglio never made it; he was shot down on Mulberry St at age 48 on March 21, 1978. The most widely believed reason he was killed was simply he knew too much about Provenzano.

- New Jersey Gambino capo Anthony Carminati: In May 1975 police end an undercover operation in which they arrest 20 gangsters in New Jersey under them the Gambino capo Anthony Carminati and his right hand Frank Miceli (Miceli had been part with Frank Basto of a 10 men counting hit team run by the Gambino capo Joseph Paterno, they were even used by bosses in other towns). An undercover agent could infiltrate after he allowed "Bugsy" LaSalle to bribe him after which the Gambino soldier Vincent Toronto introduced him to the bosses.
- Abner "Longy" Zwillman: In 1930 Ruggiero "Ritchie the Boot" Boiardo and Abner "longy" Zwillman become partners what they party for 2 whole days, but soon Boiardo gets wounded seriously after an attempt to hit him, he recovers but gets 16 months because he was armed, when he gets free he becomes leader of the First Ward.
- "Nucky" Johnson ruled Atlantic City from 1912 till 1941.
- 31 March 1941: agents arrest in Duke's Clam Bar in the town Palisades in New Jersey Salvatore Arcidiano, Arthur Longano, Willie Moreti's brother Salvatore and Thomas Lucchese.
- 4 October 1951: William Moretti (57) the most trusted lieutenant of Costello was shot to death by 3 killers under whom John Robilotto of the Anastasia family. His place was taken by Genovese's trustee Gerardo Catena

- In 1944 Joseph "Joe" Adonis relocates his activities to New Jersey and uses as headquarters Duke's Bar and Grill in Cliffside Park, Palisades, New Jersey. Duke's owner is John "Duke" DeNoia who has contact with Anthony "Tony Cheese" Marchitto who is in contact with Mayor John V Kenney of Jersey City. In the 40s and 50s Duke's was the meeting place for the bosses, there came Joey Adonis, Anastasia often. Every Tuesday there came the leaders of the Big Six: from Chicago came Accardo and Guzik, Adonis, Frank Costello, Lansky and Zwillman. Also there came the brothers Willie and Solly Moretti and Anthony Strollo "Tony Bender" often. After the Kefauver hearings it became to well known and it lost its popularity. Adonis gets deported: Joe Adonis owned the Automotive Conveying Company of New Jersey, the company had more then 100 tractor trailer units hauling new cars from the Mahwash and Edgewater plants of the Ford Motor Co to dealers in 14 states. When Adonis was deported he sold the company to Carlo Chieri. 3 January 1956: Adonis accepts deportation to Italy and meets Luciano in Rome with whom he has a falling out about money and Adonis settles in Milan and the two will never bother to contact each other again.
- In 1952 the Manhattan murder of anti-Trujillo exile Andres Requena arranged. On more then one occasion, the SIM(?) simply turned their murderous chores over to one of New York Mafia families to complete.
- The SIM and the mob kidnapped Dr. Jesus E. Galindez, a lecturer at Columbia University on March 12, 1956. Galindez had been an outspoken opponent of Trujillo. Two versions were advanced. One was that the SIM kidnapped him and threw him into a ship's furnace. The other is that he was returned to the Dominican Republic and Trujillo himself tortured him. The kidnap murder caused a minor international outrage, and to quell the public, Trujillo hired a New York law firm to investigate the disappearance, but all they could come up with was that Galindez had disappeared.
- Lewisburg: In 1965 Raymond Carl Freda arrived in Lewisburg. Christine Lee's in the Thunderbird Hotel on Collins Ave. which was a hot spot. It is mentioned in Pistones book. Christine Lee was from Elizabeth, NJ. She ran a whorehouse there and ran 'fan tan' games [chinese card game]. She was independent and Sam sent some guys to put the 'shake' on her. They kicked her eye out. Whereas in classic mob fashion Sam 'put his arm' around her in the form of protection. She moved to Miami and married well, becoming something of a society matron. Everyone used to hang in her place.
- Angelo DeCarlo: 13 September 1968 Gerald Zelmanowitz arrived at the headquarters of Angelo DeCarlo and sees how Louis D. Saperstein was beaten up by Polverino and Cecere. This because he couldn't pay the weekly rent of \$5,000 anymore. He got a \$400,000 loan from loan-sharks to pay the rent but could not repay the loan. Saperstein was then send home that he had to pay it all back for the end of the year. 26 November Saperstein was poisoned in a hospital after he had started to cooperate with the FBI.
- Luciano and Fiumara: Dominick Luciano was a member in the Bruno family working in North Jersey and had as protégé Tino Fiumara "George Greco" whose cousin is Pasquale "Patty Specs" Martorano. In the late 60s Dominick "Lolly" Luciano murdered Nicky "Tarzan" Colucci and 2 others in the Downneck Tavern in Newark.
- New Jersey and Campisi family: In New Jersey the Campisi family was led by Thomas "Mozzie" Campisi (his sons are Peter charles "Petey White" and Thomas)and his brothers

were Anthony "Nana" (his sons are Carmen and Peter Anthony "Pipi" Campisi), "Dada" and Biaggio "Benny" Campisi (the last married Assunta DeMarco and their son is Peter Charles, her brother was a major bookmaker with the boot, Tony Boy and Andy). In 1969 William Kimbrough gets killed possibly by Peter Campisi and his man Ray Cagno. Around 1970 when Thomas "Mozzie" Campisi dies, Anthony "Nana" Campisi becomes the head of the family clan "the crazy Campisi's". Dominick Luciano started an affair with Maria Campise the wife of Tommy Campise and Luciano was murdered in his driveway in February 1971 which was okayed by Tony Caponigro. The Campisi's had taken revenge for the insult and possibly they had also Maria murdered by Paterno. Connie Campisi is a sister of the Campisi's. Fiumara then got as goomba Peter "Iodi Pete" Laplace a Genovese capo for Phil Lombardo and Gerry Catena in his crew were also Louis Gatto and Fiumara. In 1971 Candido "Candy" Trueba gets killed possibly by Peter Campisi. In April 1971 Aurielo "Ray" Cagno (close to Petey "Black" Campisi) was arrested with others from the Campisi crew for stolen US Treasury certificates and murder charges. 25 June 1971 Peter Charles Campisi possibly killed Kenneth Gajewski in a Staten Island club. Ira Pecznik was a killer for the Campisi family and was later killed? The book To Drop A Dime is about him. In January 1975 Peter Charles Campisi was sentenced to 20 years for murder. Around January 1975 Ray Cagno gets 12 years for his role in the murder of William Kimbrough and the same month Anthony Campisi's son Peter pleads guilty to the murders of Trueba, Kimbrough and the murder of Domenick Luciano a Philadelphia family member. Anthony Campisi gets 10 years in 1975 for the murder of Trueba. In 1975 Peter "Black" Salvatore Campisi got 25 years for murder he was the son of Charles Campisi and the nephew of "Nana" Campisi. In the summer of 1983 Anthony's son Peter Anthony "Pipi" Campisi (38) gets killed and his decomposed body was found in Manhattan, his other son is Carmen. Pipi was screwing around with money from a Gambino crap game in N.Y.C. to give him a false sense of security he was 'promoted' to assist Neil DellaCroce. His body was found in the trunk of a car in Manhattan with \$20 bills scattered over it. He had two brothers Carmen who is with the Columbo's, he might be a family member like his cousin Petey Black, who has been gravely ill since 93. Nana died New Year's Eve 90 or 91. Nana was never made. In May 1993 Anthony Campisi (72) and son Carmen beat the government in their gambling conviction and get free.

- New Jersey Philadelphia capo Caponigro: After Jerry Catena faded away from the picture, Caponigro's crew from Newark thought they could move in on the North Jersey territory of the Genovese family. According to the book Boardwalk Jungle by Ovid Demaris there were 18 gangland murders in the Port Newark area between 1971 and 1975 in their struggle.
- Boiardo: The body of Genovese soldier Angelo Chieppa was found in 1973 in the trunk of his car in the Two Guys parking lot on Passaic Ave in Kearney, NJ. The time frame is the same. Chieppa was around Richie "the boot" Bioardo and was a made member prior to Apalachin in 57. He was the boots driver and eventually ran the Genovese family's gambling operations in Antigua in the late 60's and early 70's. He and his brother Larry got caught with their hand in the 'till'. Larry was only in the islands because of his brother and wasn't part of the family or a significant associate for that matter. He was given a 'pass' and was banished from returning to NJ. In 1980 Ruggiero Boiardo (89) was indicted. In November 1984 dies Ruggiero Boiardo.
- Genovese family in New Jersey: In 1977 Salerno became underboss and Antonio Ferro consigliere but the last was replaced a year later by Dominick Alongi. In 1977 John "Coca

Cola" Lardiere was killed and the suspect is Michael J Coppola of the Genovese family where he is the underboss of Tino Fiumara. In 1977 possibly Frankos (on leave from prison) and Joe Sullivan kill the lawyer Gino Gallina (42) who had testified in Newark about a killer team armed with 22 caliber pistols with sound-dampers who had at least killed 20 people the last 2 years under whom 6 FBI informants, the murders were committed at the orders of the Genovese men in New Jersey Vincent Gigante, John DiGilio, Salvatore Briguglio and Tommy Principe. At the end of September 1977 police close Operation Project Alpha and arrest about 30 men under whom John DiGilio, Fiumara and DiNorscio. In 1978 Joseph Queli's brother James Queli was murdered in his New Jersey home. Police suspect Fiumara being involved in the murders of Nicky and Patsy Colucci, Richard Santos and a Patterson NJ bookie who was killed with a baseball bat. Richie "the boot" Boiardo had in his NJ crew the Genovese brothers John "Big Pussy" and Anthony "Little Pussy" Russo. Anthony Russo was for a while the driver for Vito Genovese. Around Christmas 1978 John Russo died. 26 April 1979 Anthony Russo was murdered in Long Beach, NJ supposedly because he had gotten Patrick Pizzuto into the family who became an informant. In 1979 were 18 union officials and Shipping company officials convicted for extortion of southern harbors (Florida) under them George Barone, Fred Field, his bodyguard Benny Astorino, Bill Boyle and Vanderwijde. The men worked for the Genovese mobster Doug Rado and were turned in by entrepreneur Joey Teitelbaum who owns a shipping company and was extorted by them. The FBI turned their attention to New York where in 1979 the Gambino capo Anthony Scotto got 5 years for running the Brooklyn harbor, his daughter is newscaster Roseanne Scotto. Scotto was replaced as boss of the docks by Sonny Ciccone. The Genovese soldier Michael Clemente got in 1980 twenty years for running Manhattan harbor and Genovese soldier Tino Fiumara got 25 years for running New Jersey. Tino Fiumara went to jail thanks to witness Pat Kelly, a NJ banker. Fiumara's crew then get led by Louis Gatto and in the crew are Michael Coppola and Joseph Queli. In December 1980 President Reagan made Raymond Donovan (50) Minister of Labor, the FBI then gave out the story of Donovan's underworld contacts. Donovan had worked for the Schiavone Building Company of NJ. They paid bribes to the Genovese family for contracts and no troubles with the unions. The bribes first went to Briguglio and after his murder to William Massalli who used as bagman Fred Furino. Also Donovan had contacts with Genovese capo Albert Facchiaro. Exactly a year later they open an inquiry in his contacts. In december 1981 the inquiry was opened in Donovan's contacts. In June 1982 was Furino found in the trunk of a car with a bullet in his head after he had failed a lie detector test when they had asked him if he knew Donovan. Also William Masselli who was convicted 4 months earlier to 17 years for fencing had to testify. The evening before his testimony his son Nat Masselli was killed by the killers Salvatore Odierno and Philip Buono who were convicted. William Masselli got the message and kept his mouth shut, and all were spoken free. In 1993 Lucchese soldier Thomas Ricciardi starts to cooperate and Michael Coppola goes into hiding because Ricciardi implicated him in the 1976 murder of John Lardieri, a Genovese soldier. In 1994 was Genovese capo Tino Fiumara set free from prison and replaced the arrested consiglieri Bobby Manna as head of the Genovese branch in New Jersey.

- Philadelphia crew in North New Jersey: In 1978 the criminal Frank Stillitano shoots to death in New Jersey the son of Nicky Russo, a man of the Gambino capo Toddo Aurello and wounds another. The Gambino family then asks Scarfo to punish Stillitano because he worked in their territory in New Jersey. Scarfo sends Philip and Lawrence Merlino and

Stillitano's body was found in the trunk of a car, he was killed 14 February 1981, one of his killers was former cop Steven Alexander who was himself killed in April 1998 and his body was cut to pieces. In October 1984 was Pasquale "Patty" Martirano made capo and leads Philadelphia's operations in North New Jersey when he follows up capo Ralph "Blackie" Napoli who was made soldier by Scarfo. 26 February 1990 Fresolone got his friend Nicky Scarfo Jr from the airport of Newark.

- Gambino crew Zips (Sicilians) in New Jersey: The Gambino brothers were allowed by Riina to conduct their heroine business but they have to pay him now and had to kill every one of Riina's enemies that escapes to the US. Salvatore Sollenza gets found 10 November 1983 in the trunk of a car in New Jersey and 19 November police find his brother Matteo also back in the trunk of a car. Badalamenti's nephews are killed by Lawrence Merlino a killer of Philadelphia boss Scarfo who conducts business with the gambino brothers. 22 September 1989 Fresolone met Gambino man Joseph Casiere "Joe Rackets" who is the chauffeur for Robert "Cabert" Bisaccia who leads the crew in New Jersey for Gotti. The same month Fresolone met again the 2 and Gambino man Charles "Blackie" Luciano. The same evening Fresolone met Genovese man Ronald Catrambone who works for "Joe Z" Joseph Zarra. They want to run gambling in New Jersey together and also in were the Genovese men Anthony "Babe" DeVino and Phil DeNoia and Scarfo's men Scoops, Slicker, Jerry Fussella. 10 October starts their gambling operation. John Giordano watched for Gotti gambling and made 300 million dollars annually and he was shot and wounded in a hospital when he visited there Louis Di Fazio. Other topmen of Gotti are Gaetano Napoli and Salvatore Caruso. 27 October meet Gotti and John Gambino.
- Lucchese crew: Brothers Pat and Vinny Storino and their sons Anthony and Frank work in New Jersey. Pat and Vinny have as uncle Vincent Craparotta. 12 June 1984 was Lucchese man Vincent Craparotta "Jimmy Sinatra" (56) beaten to death with golf clubs possibly by Martin Taccetta, Ricciardi and Ryan because he didn't want to pay part of his lucrative videobusiness to Lucchese capo Anthony "Tumac" Accetturo. In January 1981 Joseph Alonzo gets free from prison. Alonzo got into trouble with DeCavalcante man Corky Vastola and he talked to his nephew Jackie DiNorscio who talks with Michael Taccetta. Taccetta and Tommy Ricciardi meet then in Florida a man of Vastola. Also present were DiNorscio, Anthony Accetturo and his capo Frank "GooGoo" Suppa. 10 February 1985 Joseph Alonzo wounds his nephew Jackie Di Norscio. 21 August 1985 were in New Jersey the local Lucchese mobsters Anthony Accetturo, Michael Taccetta and his brother Martin, their nephew Alfonse Cataldo and Jackie Di Norscio (the son of Philadelphia soldier Dominick Di Norscio) arrested.
- New Jersey Colombo: Beginning 1993 was the New Jersey based Colombo soldier James "Jimmy Ran" Randazzo killed. In the Randazzo murder were questioned Petey White Campisi and Peter Black Campisi. In 1993 Carmine Sessa became witness and police arrest Joey "Legs" Legrano, Dennis DeLucia, Rocco and Ray Cagno for the Angellino murder. DeLucia pled guilty, Legrano was found guilty and Rocco Cagno became a witness. Ray then also got into trouble for the murder of James Randazzo to which Salvatore "Tutti" Lombardino pled guilty and was convicted. Ray Cagno was arrested 18 May 1993 in connection with the murder of James "Jimmy" Randazzo. For the war stood on trial Carmine Persico Jr's brother the capo Teddy Persico, Joseph Russo, Anthony Russo and Joseph "Joe Monte" Monteleone (his nephew is Eric Curcio). Teddy got into troubles when consiglieri Carmine Sessa told that

teddy wanted the capo William "Wild Bill" Cutolo to be killed. Colombo consiglieri Carmine Sessa was suspected of 13 murders under which the murder of a woman and also Colombo man Robert Zambardi (who worked for Scarpa) was suspected of 4 murders. Colombo capo Thomas Petrizzo (62) works in the building industry and became a witness and belonged to a party in the Colombo war. In 1993 Theodore "Teddy" Persico got sentenced to over 20 years. 20 October 1993, at the end of the Colombo war, Orena underboss Joseph Scopo (the son of Ralph scopo) was killed and Dominick LoGazzo wounded and Angelo Marrone escapes, the hit was done by Jonathan Pappa, John Sparacino, Frank B F Guerra and Eric Curcio. Scopo lived in Ozone Park. He is the 12th murder victim in the war.

The Jersey Mob

p.2-5

Bookmaker pays a fixed fee to his boss and in return the boss takes care of the cops and any others.

All gamblers are 'connected' – they are either actual members of LCN or are 'married' to LCN members.

The LCN is divided into families, that each family has a boss and an underboss, and that under them are captains or caporegimas who control a number of soldiers comprising their decima.

“Around metropolitan New York, there are five large families (plus another small family of Sam DeCavalcante)” indicates that Sam’s family is INDEPENDENT of NY families.

DeCarlo associated with Genovese family through Jerry Catena who ran the NJ portion of that family. (Thomas Eboli, aka Tommy Ryan, ran the NY part)

Ray DeCarlo is a captain in the Genovese/Catena family, as is Ruggiero Boiardo.

North Jersey mostly controlled by Genovese. Complicated by presence of Antonio Caponigro (Tony Bananas) who belonged to the Philadelphia family of Ange Bruno; and Ham Dolasco, a member of the Lucchese family. Both had stakes in area gambling. Joseph Zicarelli (Joe Bayonne) a member of the Bonanno family controlled practically everything in Bayonne and interests in several other towns. Another factor was Anthony (Little Pussy) Russo, who, although nominally under the control of Ruggiero Boiardo, had been very close to Vito Genovese (he was his chauffeur) and had gained control of rackets at “the Shore” (Ocean and Monmouth Counties).

p.152

Jerry Catena, Nick Delmore and Ritchie (The Boot) Boiardo were 'made' six months before June 1944 when Ray DeCarlo was made. (made = admitted member of LCN)

p.155-6

Discussion of who Ray DeCarlo knows in Elizabeth: “I know Phil (Amari, former boss of this family)”

p.158

Nick Delmore is over 70 (17 October 1961 conversation)

p.159

Owning a 'point' in a casino (vegas) earns \$1000.00 per month, maybe \$1500.00. There are 100 available points, i.e. \$100,000.00, that is stolen each month and distributed according to who owns the points.

p.176

23 February 1963

Sam DeCavalcante: "When they made me they made me in Italian. They spoke all in Italian. I was supposed to have been made thirty years ago in Philadelphia."

"How old are you?" asked Ray DeCarlo.

"Fifty-two, Joe Bruno wanted to make me. Then Nardone, the boss at _____, wanted to make me."

"____ your dad." Tony Boy began (Tony Boiardo)

"Yeah, but my father, when Joe Bruno wanted to make me said, 'If anybody is going to make my son, I'll make him.' I remember Joe Bruno real well." [Sam?]

Joe Bruno spends time between Italy and Philly – owned a Cadillac agency and Buick per Sam.

p.192-3

DeCarlo states he paid \$35,000.00 for each point in a Vegas casino. Owned 2 points in Horseshoe, 2 in Fremont, and $\frac{3}{4}$ in Sands. Each point in Sands or Desert Inn brings in \$1,500.00 per month – skimmed off the top.

<http://www.naxs.com/people/mmachi/mafia/nynj.htm>

NEW JERSEY

The New Jersey factions of La Cosa Nostra often struggled to find ways to make money without upsetting their stronger partners in New York City and Philadelphia. The only established faction of LCN in the state was in Newark. Its first boss was Filippo Amari. He ruled from the establishment of the family until his death in 1957. Nicholas Delmore ruled from 1957 to 1964. Samuel DeCavalcante was the most prominent boss of the New Jersey LCN. He ruled until early in the 1970's. He was succeeded by John Riggi, who is currently imprisoned. It is not known who is the boss in his absence. One other capo of notice is Anthony "Tough Tony" Provenzano. He was a vice-president in the Teamsters' Union, and he is said to be one of the conspirators in Jimmy Hoffa's murder. The latest news on the DeCavalcante family is that it is under the control of John "Jackie Nose" D'Amico. D'Amico is well known in New York for his close association with the Gambino family and with John Gotti. D'Amico served as Gotti's bodyguard at one time, and, along with Peter Gotti, Nick Corozzo, and John Gotti, Jr., D'Amico was one of the men on the committee that ruled the Gambino family immediately after Gotti's incarceration (1992).

24 January 2004 Los Angeles Times

“Alleged Crime Boss Louie Bagels Convicted”

The alleged acting boss of the Luchese organized crime family was convicted of racketeering and loan-sharking charges that included murdering two suspected mob snitches – including one found with a dead canary in his mouth. Louis Daidone, 56, also known as Louie Bagels, faces a possible mandatory minimum sentence of life in prison without parole. He is scheduled to be sentenced April 28 in Manhattan federal court.

<http://www.ganglandnews.com/column97.htm>

ASK ANDY

Andy, our organized crime historian seen here with one of his favorite Mafia books, "Mob Star," replies to several recent queries and gives an overview of the Mafia families that have laid claim to mob rackets in New Jersey along with some thumbnails about some of the major players who have operated in the Garden State.

There are seven Mafia families that operate in New Jersey, but only one is viewed as homegrown - with its original base in the Newark area. It is still generally referred to as the DeCavalcante family for the boss that Joe Valachi identified as family leader in the 1960's, Simone (Sam the Plumber) DeCavalcante.

Like most La Cosa Nostra families, the roots of this group go back to the first decades of the century. In 1930, the Boss was Stephano Badami, Underboss was Sam Monaco. On Sept. 10, 1931, Monaco disappeared until his body floated ashore in Newark Bay three days later.

Phil Amari became the next leader. He was a drug dealer and was well known by the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs, which had a large file on him and his activities. He was also involved in labor racketeering, gambling and loansharking and one of his key associates was the father of future Boss, John Riggi. According to FBI bugs, Amari's reign was not a happy one and it's likely he was deposed in a bloodless coup.

Next up was Nick Delmore who became boss in 1957, not too long after Monaco's 1931 murder was apparently avenged. On Mar. 31, 1955, Badami was lured to a restaurant and stabbed to death. A Monaco brother was questioned, but released. In 1961, Delmore stepped down and was replaced by DeCavalcante, who was later overheard on an FBI bug explaining that the Commission had given Delmore the top spot, but in an effort to avoid family feuds that plagued Amari's tenure, had put him on probation for one year before making him the official boss. Like his predecessors, The Plumber's main rackets were gambling, loansharking and labor racketeering.

Early in his reign, DeCavalcante arranged a sitdown with Philadelphia boss Angelo Bruno to settle differences involving that city's induction of members from Trenton. What the bugged conversations make clear is that disputes between the bosses were decided by the Commission, and that conflict over territory was and would be a continuing problem in New Jersey.

A quick look at a map shows why the Philadelphia mob became involved in southern New Jersey. Camden is just across the river from Philadelphia and Atlantic City has been an easy commute ever since a railroad joined Camden and the Atlantic Ocean resort in the mid-1880's. Philadelphia mobsters expanded northward during the reign of underboss Marco Reginelli from 1946 to 1956 and solidified their hold under a succession of powers including Anthony (Tony Bananas) Caponigro, Ralph Napoli, Pasquale Martinario and Joseph Licata.

The Genovese Family has been active in New Jersey more than 80 years. Willie Moretti was an early strongman closely associated with Abner (Longy) Zwillman. Joe Adonis was heavily involved in gambling in the Garden State and Gerardo Catena carried on after Moretti was murdered and Adonis deported in the 1950's. Other gambling forces included Angelo (Gyp) DeCarlo and Ruggiero (Richie the Boot) Boiardo. The Genovese Family also gained control of the vast New Jersey docks, wresting control from the Irish. Capo Tony Provenzano initially rode the coattails of his mentor, Anthony (Tony Bender) Strollo, and then became a powerful force in Teamsters Union during the 1960's and 1970's. A decade later, consigliere Louis (Bobby) Manna (right) was in charge of the family's New Jersey rackets.

The Bonannos have had some interests in the Garden State. The most famous Bonanno soldier in New Jersey was Joseph (Bayonne Joe) Zicarelli. When he was made, Zicarelli became part of a crew headed by capo Joe Notaro whose members ranged from Brooklyn to the Bronx. During the early 1960's, Zicarelli had the misfortune to be recorded on an FBI bug. Transcripts were released in 1969 and Zicarelli became a public sensation the second time in two years. In 1967, a close association with Congressman Cornelius Gallagher was revealed by Life Magazine, destroying Gallagher's career. Joe Bonanno had an interest in a Newark Airport Hotel and one of his capos, Tony Riela, operated from that base well into the late 1970's. The small Bonanno presence in New Jersey has faded since that era.

According to the FBI, the Luccheses rose in power in New Jersey during the 1980's because of turmoil in Philadelphia after Bruno was assassinated in 1980. Consigliere Anthony Caponigro, was executed for his role in Bruno's killing, and Philadelphia leaders focused on that city's rackets. Heading the Lucchese climb were Anthony (Tumac) Accetturo and the Tacetta brothers, Martin and Michael. Eventually, a feud between New York leaders and the New Jersey wing coupled with federal prosecutions seriously weakened the Lucchese fortunes in New Jersey.

The Gambinos have also had a presence in New Jersey. During the reigns of Carlo Gambino and Paul Castellano, soldier Nicky Russo operated a number of gambling activities, often in partnership with the Philadelphia Family. An FBI bug overheard future Philadelphia bosses Phil Testa and Nicodemo (Little Nicky) Scarfo discussing one such endeavor in 1977. Several Gambino cousins from Cherry Hill were heavily involved in heroin trafficking, an accommodation from Bruno that gave Gambino's relatives permission to operate in his territory. The Cherry Hill Gambinos were heavily involved in the heroin trade, and passed lots of money to the family's New York leaders, from Gambino to Castellano to John Gotti.

The Colombos have had a much smaller presence in New Jersey. Most recently, capo Thomas Petrizzo was charged with extorting the company that was building the Newark Airport monorail. Petrizzo was also hit with labor racketeering charges in New York and is serving time in federal prison. So called Yuppie capo Michael Franzese also operated vast bootleg gasoline tax scams in New Jersey.

Mobmagazine.com

NEW JERSEY/PHILADELPHIA MOB TIME LINE

1920: The Mafia is established in Newark under boss Stefano Badami, whose underboss is murdered and tossed in Newark Bay.

Badami is suspected in the murder. Badami himself was stabbed to death after he stepped down as boss.

1940: Through the 1940's, Willie Moretti, a New Jersey-based hood with a long criminal history, runs the show in Jersey for his boss, Frank Costello.

Born in 1894, Moretti was linked, early in his career, to Bonanno's cousin, Stefano Magaddino of Buffalo. Moretti was also closely allied to Jersey's own Longy Zwillman.

1957: Philip Ameri, the acting boss over the Newark rackets, drags the family into the narcotics rackets. Ameri is murdered by persons unknown.

1957: Nicholas Delmore takes over as boss after Phil Ameri is murdered.

READ THE FBI FILE ON NEW JERSEY'S MOB BOSS LONGY ZWILLMAN

1960: Nicholas Delmore, boss over the Jersey rackets, steps down due to pressure from fraction fighting within the family.

1976: Recently freed from jail, former New Jersey crime boss Simone DeCavalcante moves to Florida. He is said to be in retirement but the Feds suspect that he is actually sharing power with John Riggi.

Organized Crime Syndicates

<http://www.geocities.com/organizedcrimesyndicates/newjersey.html>

New Jersey LCN Family

Dons (Bosses)

1900s-1937: Gaspare D'Amico

Gaspare D'Amico is the name that creeps up with New Jersey's early Black Hand influence. Very little is known with the exception of his retirement in 1937. He appears to have little recognition.

1937-1955: Stefano Badami

Stefano Badami is credited with being the genuine article for New Jersey. He operated in Newark and Trenton. His underboss was Sam Monaco, whose body washed up on Newark Bay in September 1931. In 1955 Badami was murdered, in what appears to be a power struggle and an attempt to consolidate the crime family.

1955-1957: Filippo "Phil" Amari

Phil Amari was a well known figure to local law enforcement in Newark and New York. Identified by the Bureau of Narcotics as being a dope peddler and racketeer. Evidence later released suggests that his short time at the top was due to rebellious factions operating underneath him.

1957-1964: Nicholas Delmore

Nicholas Delmore became boss of the New Jersey syndicate.

A small criminal legion that was represented at the Apalachin mob summit of November 1957 by their respective underbosses. Old age and problems with law enforcement caused Delmore to step down. He left the rackets to his nephew Sam DeCavalcante.



1964-mid 1970s: Simone "Sam the Plumber" DeCavalcante

Sam DeCavalcante emerged to become a powerful criminal. He first set up a series of meetings to establish his crime family's territory in the Garden State. New Jersey had long been entrenched by the five crime families of New York and Philadelphia. He operated crews in Princeton, Newark and Trenton, all the while using his plumbing business as a front. An old fashioned syndicate member, DeCavalcante's status in the underworld was often used to mediate disputes involving other crime families. Respected, DeCavalcante quietly amassed a fortune from labor racketeering, narcotics trafficking, loansharking and gambling.

A well dressed mobster, he stated the virtues of marriages and family, despite having a few girlfriends on the side. The FBI managed to bug his operations from 1961-1965 and amassed an incredible amount information regarding other crime families. He unknowingly informed that Gambino LCN Family underboss Joe Biondo had been demoted to soldier and replaced by Neil Dellacroce, over a dispute involving a garbage dump. He also explained the hierarchy of several crime families. Following the exposure of the tapes, DeCavalcante was convicted of extortion.



Alongside him was an up and coming New Jersey mobster Gaetano "Corky" Vastola, who actually would experience a sentence reduction, causing him to be mislabeled as an informant the rest of his criminal career.

DeCavalcante would spend the remaining 1970s in prison and allow John Riggi to operate the crime family's affairs. As the 1980s ushered in, a released DeCavalcante sought refuge in Florida and was said to have made attempts to lobby the state legislation for legalizing gambling. Voters turned down the ballot. He died in Florida, quietly living on the east coast, in 1997. He was 84 years old.

mid 1970s-present: Giovanni "The Eagle" Riggi

Giovanni Riggi, known as John, filled in as acting boss upon DeCavalcante's extortion conviction in 1970s. The actual time isn't clear regarding his official recognition as boss. By 1980, with DeCavalcante in retirement, Riggi was seen as boss of the Garden State and recognized by all. Riggi was the son of a New Jersey mobster. While the 1980s didn't prove nearly as fruitful for the New Jersey crew, they did experience a rebirth in the 1990s and were seen as a serious power. Riggi was often spotted at many meetings held with John Gotti at the Ravenite Social Club in Manhattan's Little Italy. While there, with the FBI listening, Riggi acted the role of a subservient dog. Gotti commanded Riggi to murder New Jersey capo Corky Vastola. For all intents and purposes, Riggi just gave the appearance of hatching the plot, Vastola had been a top earner in the New Jersey crime family and Gotti would later be convicted for the Vastola murder conspiracy. Riggi had served as Business Manager of LIUNA Local 394 of Elizabeth, NJ from the mid 1960s to 1989. He would be indicted for labor racketeering and

caused for his retirement. The following year he would be convicted and sentenced to 15 years, with a projected release date of June 2004. He would continue to influence the Local through his son in law and fellow union member, Sean Richard. This control continued until 2000 when Richard and Riggi's daughter separated, causing Richard to go on the run and later becoming a government informant. While in prison the New Jersey crime family acted through a series of acting bosses and panels. One panel member, Frank Lassaro, who had previously been the crime family's underboss, disappeared in 1991. The crime family experienced a rebirth and increased their rank and file. In 2000 Riggi and a host of other high ranking members were indicted for RICO Act violations. Charges ranged from murder, conspiracy, extortion, labor racketeering, loansharking and gambling. Riggi, who is currently at a Federal Prison Medical Facility in North Carolina, stands trial and if convicted, he will never leave prison alive. Today the New Jersey syndicate, which now boasts for being the prototype for the HBO hit series "The Sopranos, rises above the ashes and is quickly slapped back down. A pattern which continues to this day.



1989-1991 (Acting Boss) Gaetano "Corky" Vastola

Gaetano "Corky" Vastola is without a doubt one of the toughest Northeastern mobsters to ever emerge. An earner, who had ties to the record industry, labor unions, loansharking, illegal gambling and an impressive legal business portfolio. Vastola would be convicted with Sam DeCavalcante in the early 1970s but won an appeal and an eventual dismissal. Later subsequent attempts brought very little in the way of prosecution. This caused him to be labeled a "rat" by some, most particularly by John Gotti of the Gambino crime family. In 1985 he would deliver a punch heard throughout the underground, when he decked cutout record distributor John LaMonte of Philadelphia and attempted to extort his business. The punch, just one, broke the businessman's jaw and nearly killed him. In 1990 he was convicted of assault and extortion, receiving an nine year sentence and was released in 1998. While in trial Gotti and his underboss Sammy Gravano planned for his murder. Gotti would later be convicted of this conspiracy. Vastola was thought to have served as acting boss following Riggi's conviction and appears now to be semi-retired.

1991-1992 (Acting Boss) John "Johnny Boy" D'Amato

Johnny D'Amato would step in to fill the role as acting boss following the sentencing of Vastola in 1991. The Elizabeth, New Jersey mobster derived power from such individuals as "Charlie Ears" Majuri and Vinny Palermo. D'Amato was murdered by a conspiracy led by capo Vinny Palermo, consigliere Stefano Vitabile, capo Anthony Rotondo and soldier Anthony Capo. Rumors have since circulated that D'Amato's girlfriend claimed he was gay and swinging. However D'Amato borrowed heavily from several of the New York crime families, ultimately crying poor mouth and appearing to live well. It was a matter of time. In late 1992 this former Ravenite Social Club regular and John Gotti pal was found murdered.

Underboss

1955-1957: Frank "Fat Frank" Majuri

By the time Frank Majuri was promoted to underboss under syndicate leader Phil Amari he was already considered the street boss for Elizabeth. Apparently Majuri made a name for himself shaking down Italian immigrants then later had a influential hand in illegal gambling.

In November 1957 Majuri and his eventual replacement Louie LaRasso were identified as attending the ill fated Apalachin mob summit. By 1957 Amari's reign had been plagued by inner fighting and he had sought refuge in Italy leaving Majuri and LaRasso to represent the New Jersey crime family. Upon the recognition of Nick Delmore as the new kingpin Majuri was demoted back to the rank of capo. Majuri then would go on to school his son Charlie for his future role in the syndicate.



1957-1976: Louis "Fat Louie" Larasso

Louis LaRasso represented the crime family's Newark criminal interest. Following the promotion of Nick Delmore as boss underboss Frank Majuri was demoted and LaRasso was elevated to second in command. The demotion and promotion was thought not to have caused a rift between LaRasso and Majuri as the two were credited with expanding the New Jersey crime family's influence across the Hudson river into Manhattan and Brooklyn. By some estimates the New Jersey crew had doubled in size to relative made members. LaRasso was a prominent member of Building Laborer's Union Local 394 of Elizabeth. The relationship between the DeCavalcante criminal network and the union would be both historical and profitable. Nearly 40 years later prosecutors would prove that the New Jersey syndicate regularly used the local as means of extortion and kickback scam. LaRasso remained underboss when Sam DeCavalcante was pegged to be boss by his uncle Nick Delmore in 1964. DeCavalcante would also bring back Frank Majuri into the fold as consigliere. Just prior to being sent away to prison along with his crime boss Louie LaRasso was called upon to do a piece of work. In 1965 Brooklyn mob boss Carlo Gambino was fuming when Genovese family mobster Joseph 'Joey Surprise' Feola had managed to snag a profitable garbage route from Gambino. LaRasso was able to lure Feola to a garage where he reportedly strangled Feola to death and buried his body. Feola's corpse never materialized and no one was ever charged. Afterwards LaRasso reported to legendary Gambino capo and garbage rackets boss Jimmy Failla that the job had been done. After the hit LaRasso was in regular company with DeCavalcante but neither of them knew of the FBI hidden recorders that would tape their conversations for the next several years. DeCavalcante, LaRasso and a host of others were indicted for a litany of conspiracy charges. LaRasso himself was thought to have been overseeing a gambling racket that boasted \$20 million in profits. Both DeCavalcante and LaRasso were indicted and found guilty of obstructing justice and conspiracy. LaRasso began serving his time in 1969 and by 1976 was released with DeCavalcante. Before the mob boss went to prison he was thought to have appointed longtime New Jersey mobster John Riggi to run the show. Allegedly Riggi and LaRasso were rivals. Following his release LaRasso was told to stand back and be happy as a capo in the crime family. When John Riggi was convicted for labor racketeering in 1990 LaRasso put out feelers for a regime change and more than likely saw himself at the top or at least as underboss. Unfortunately he underestimated the loyalty of consigliere Stefano Vitabile to Riggi. In the summer of 1991 LaRasso failed to

show up for his 65th birthday party and hasn't been seen since. Nearly a decade later the crime family's acting boss and quite possibly their biggest earner Vincent 'Vinny Oceans' Parlermo would turn and become a federal witness. He stated that he was given the contract to terminate LaRasso's attempts and all the participants are now in prison.

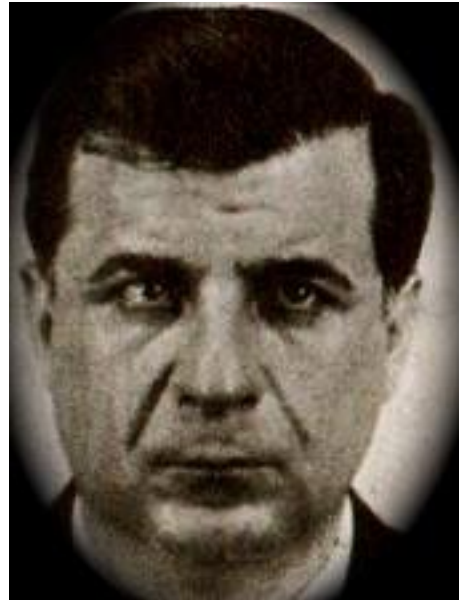
Consigliere

1964-1979: Frank "Fat Frank" Majuri

Born in 1909, Frank Majuri along with Lou LaRasso attended the 1957 mob summit of sorts in Apalachin, NY. Majuri was originally the underboss to New Jersey mob boss Phil Amari, after being demoted by Nick Delmore to the rank of capo, Sam DeCavalcante realized he could make a potential ally when he elevated Majuri to consigliere. Majuri controlled the crime family's Newark rackets. Majuri was said to be loyal but not too attached to the Elizabeth faction of the crime family where DeCavalcante operated from. During the 1970s his main focus was preparing his son Charlie to take over the helm as well as making sure the Newark interest operated smoothly.



Following the imprisonment of DeCavalcante during the early-mid 1970s Majuri continued to operate in the same capacity for acting boss John Riggi. By the late 1970s with DeCavalcante retired, Riggi had placed Stefano Vitabile as acting consigliere and by 1979 Majuri had stepped down from his role. Ill health would plague him his last few years as he oversaw his son become promoted to capo over his Newark interests. Frank Majuri died in 1983.



GRIFFIN, JOE MOB Nemesis

Prometheus Books Amherst NY. 2002

p. 28 CA: mbrs of Neapolitan Camorra + Sicilian Mafia
begin "INFILTRATING the immigrant population"

p. 14 * Defn: MAFIA - uncertain origin + multiple meanings
"Webb Dictionary": "a neologism denoting 'BRANDS'"

1876: Piedmontese origin, equivalent of gang

Sicily - organization is "Aascut", legal + illicit
composed of groups "Cosche" (a corruption of
the word for ARTICHOKE)

CAPO heads a cosche

CONSORTERIA: loose ALLIANCE of MULTIPLE cosche
that comprise the "Amibodegli Amici"
(friend of ours)

ONOCATO Società: CONSORTERIA of Sicily

p. 15 Def: MAND NEGRO: technique of extortion,
NOT A GROUP, in 1908

UNION Siciliana: FRAT. ORG, chartered in
1895, Illinois; 1910 - jurisdiction of
the Ill. Dept. of Insurance, heavily
infiltrated by MAFIA

MAFIA (LEN) formed in 1931 in NYC, NOT EVEN
a "foreign branch" of Sicilian - ONOCATO Soc

1920's: many OS mbrs fled Sicily during
Mussolini's ^{law} enforcement.

1963: LEN mbr. 5000; 2500 in NYC's 5 Boro.

p. 16 * 24 families under control of Commissione
Commission - heads of 4 NYC fam + Buffalo, Detroit,
Philly + Chicago

p.16: LEN ALA "The Arm" in BUFFALO
"the outfit" - Chicago

p.17 2002: mbr 1150; 750 in NYC.

NOTE pp. 14-17 are part of sect: "Introduction"
by G. Robert BLAKEY

p.28 APRIL 1931 - "Night of the Skilla Vespers"
conflict b/w Camorra + Mafia Families
(compare to defn: CASTELLAMARESE war)
15 April 1931 Giuseppe Massera, ~~an~~ assassin
succeeded by Lucky Luciano as family head.
Salvatore MARZANO succ. Massera
"Capo di tutti capi"

"Several weeks" after Massera's ASSASSINATION,
"all the mafia + Camorra bosses" met
in Chicago + agreed to form the LEN

p.29 Commissione created by MARZANO + Luciano
to oversee 24 families.

FAMILIES, Affiliates (early → later names, capo, sottocapo)

MASSERIA; Camorra (MASSERIA → Luciano, CASTELLO)

Genovese, ? (Vincent MANGANO (p. 30) → Genovese & ?)

VILLABATE, 2 (? → Jos. Profaci → Jos. Colombo)

Note Profaci already capo by 1931

Mineo, MAFIA → MANGANO → GAMBINO (Mineo →
Philip MANGANO → Carlos Gambino)

BRAW, MAFIA → Lucchese Fam. (Gaetano
Goldiano → Thomas Lucchese)

MARZANO → BONANNI, MAFIA (Sal. Marzano,
Joseph BONANNI → Jos. Bonanno)

p. 29 + 100 FAMILIES

Joseph Peter Delarco Biss (1912-22)

Delarco (Buffalo), MARIA → MACADDINO (STEFANO →
Sohn C. MINNARD, 2nd to MACADDINO [Angelo Palmieri 1912-22, Founding member of
CLEVERAND, ? (Frank Milano)
CHICAGO, CAMORRA (AL. Capone)

10 Sept. 1931 SALV. MARANZANO, capo di tutti capi, ASSASS.
by 4 of Meyer Lansky's Jewish Mob mbrs.

p. 30

to be "MADE": 100% Ital. or Sicilian, sponsor by current
LC mbr.; - tested, usually by a "rit"
Ritual = prick finger to draw blood. oath of
allegiance above all others

Composition of NATIONAL Commission: 1931 heads of (11)
5 NY, Phila., Philly, Buffalo, Chicago, Cleveland,
Detroit + New Orleans

2002: Chicago rep. Chicago + all West of Mississippi;
Genovese + Gambino heads rep. NYC

p. 32

10-14 Oct. 1957: Palermo, Sicily: meetg of LCN
leaders (Bonanno + Magaddino), Sicilian OS. capo
Don Giuseppe Genco Russo, Lucky Luciano, et al.
at Grand Hotel des Palmes; to initiate
plans for OS, + active coop. of Gen to
expand heroin smuggling to N. Amer.

25 Oct. 1957, Albert Anastasia ASSASSINATED in Barker
Shop @ NY Park Sheraton Hotel, hit ordered
by Vito Genovese + Thomas Luccarese; Genovese
became capo of Vincent Mangano Fam.
? (V. Mangano → Albert Anastasia → V. Genovese?)?

p.32-33

Apalachin. Genovese "needed" a NATI connection
1^o: to expl. Anastasiak came up. "Anastasiak
empire" - receive LCN sanction of Genovese
as case da tutti capi

2^o: expl. Sicilian O.S. relationship to LCN perheros
[Note: this might be the cause of the "no deal"
policy adopted by LCN in late 50's, &
type of non-competition agreement]

14 NOV. 1957 - met / arranged Jas. Barbara
Genovese wanted Chicago; MARADDINO
wanted Barbara estate

"Approx 120 mobsters" 66 arrests

p.34

Sept 1962 Joseph Valachi (in ATLANTA Fed
prison, narcotics) received a "contract"
wrt pr his life by Genovese (also
in Atl. Fed prison, heroin-smuggling) federal
states evidence, LCN mbr for 30+ yrs
interrogated for a year

p.35

27 Sept 1963 Senate Permanent Subcommittee
on INVESTIGATION with ^{Sen} John L. McClellan
from Arkansas received testimony by
Valachi: ID'd 24 LCN families - names,
activities, etc; he was the 2nd
"mob defector"

May+June 1916: 1st "Moz informant": Tony
NOTARO from Springfield, Mass,
reveals "Secrets of 'Italia' Tamorra
and the Sicilian Mafia" includes
"Ancient Rites" (what? Mafia began in NYC in 1931?)
which means O.S.

p.62 Apalachin - mobsters from Canada, So. Amer. + Sicily
1957 (?) - Hoover orders wiretaps, hidden microphones
in meeting places of mob, incl. Newark
(microph ruled illegal by Warren Court)

p.63 spying lasted from Nov. 1957 → 12 July 1965
p.68 ITW1 STATUTE - Interstate Transportation
of Wagering Information: illegal to
transmit over interstate Telephone lines
bookmaking information in connection
with illegal bookmaking operation.

Fed. crime: in effect in 1964 -

[NOTE: NO Fed. Chgs filed across Court in
1930s ± 1950s]

p.69 Aug. 1971 STEFANO MABADDINO ALLEGED to have
ASSASSINATED a mob member in Aton, N.J.
fled to BUFFALO, head of family there both

p.71-73 : Informants necessary to access bookmakers
[who? for the Court?]

Bookmakers: most "ambly" was NOT
interstate (horse-racing) ∴ No Fed. officers
Source of Steady, MAJOR income.
To "Denti" Family, need to hit bookmakers.
Ting a hit to get collect records or to
cause them to be destroyed by bookie →
No collections by bookie.

p.75 Bookmaking BET X +10% to win X (eg. bet 110, win 100 + orig bet)
+10% is bookies, called 'VIG'

LAYOFF bookmaker, AKA bookmaker's bookmaker - accepts bets
other bookmakers took, esp in a lopsided favorite
ie a home team..; helps balance 10 bookies accounts

p. 99

COSTIGLIANO de GARDIA, Trapani, West tip of Sicily; < 1917, Diejo PLATA. O.S. Capo

p. 103

18 Sept 1964, Englewood CLIFFS, ND, house of Thomas RBOI, "LCN Underboss", Commission meeting

p. 116

CLEVELAND LCN: 1913 MAYFIELD ROAD GANG from Murray Hill Ital-Amec. neighborhood
1920s mob taken over by Mafia & Joseph "Big Joe" LONARDO as boss.

Summer of 26 Joe visiting Sicily, LCN control to bro. John for 6 mos.

in meantime: Joe Porrello, in LONARDO Fam, separate + ops comp. boss. & 6 mos.

13 OCT. 1927: Joe & JOHN LONARDO

ASSASS. in Porrello Brother Shop.

Joe Porrello becomes LCN Cleveland Capo

5 Dec. 1928 Porrello + underboss Sam Todaro
lost 1st KNOWN NAT'L MAFIA

meeting @ Statler Hotel, Cleveland.

RAIDED by police, Joe Profaci (today's Corvino Fam)
+ Vincent Mangano (today's Gambino) arrested.

1931 - est. of LCN - CLEVELAND Fam. headed by FRANK MILANO (had several casinos in 1920s in Cincinnati, Ky + outskirts of Cinti)

25 Feb 1932 - Milano Fam. kills 2 Porrellas, ending attempts by that family to regain LCN control

30 Jan 1935 Milano moves to Mexico, runs Cleveland from there until 1942 (over)

Chenel Lcw

1942 Chenel Lcw boss - Al Pouzzi

Followed by (when? 1944-5 prison, then Coral Gables)

John Scarish & Anthony Pouzzi, under
who ruled until 1976

p. 169

Numbers Rackets:

Small wagers (25¢ to \$1.00)

bet is that a series of 3 #'s
will show up on some
predetermined series of numbers.

(e.g.: payoff prices & a specific race track,
scores of series of games, etc)
operator pays a 90 to Lcw.

NEW JERSEY

The New Jersey factions of La Cosa Nostra often struggled to find ways to make money without upsetting their stronger partners in New York City and Philadelphia. The only established faction of LCN in the state was in Newark. Its first boss was Filippo Amari. He ruled from the establishment of the family until his death in 1957. Nicholas Delmore ruled from 1957 to 1964. Samuel DeCavalcante was the most prominent boss of the New Jersey LCN. He ruled until early in the 1970's. He was succeeded by John Riggi, who is currently imprisoned. It is not known who is the boss in his absence. One other capo of notice is Anthony "Tough Tony" Provenzano. He was a vice-president in the Teamsters' Union, and he is said to be one of the conspirators in Jimmy Hoffa's murder. The latest news on the DeCavalcante family is that it is under the control of John "Jackie Nose" D'Amico. D'Amico is well known in New York for his close association with the Gambino family and with John Gotti. D'Amico served as Gotti's bodyguard at one time, and, along with Peter Gotti, Nick Corozzo, and John Gotti, Jr., D'Amico was one of the men on the committee that ruled the Gambino family immediately after Gotti's incarceration.

NJ Mafia
Miscellaneous NJ census data

1920

Badami, Stefano (B350): Following 2 are only entries close

Badamy, Santi: 62, Italy, 443 York St, Jersey City, Hudson Co. V.60, ED153, S18, L46
 , Vincenzi, 56, Italy, Nat 1901
 , John, 19, Italy
 , Joseph, 22, Italy
 , Antoinette, 18, NJ, D-in-law
 , Santi, 6, NJ, Grson

Badamy, Santi, 29, Italy, 64 Irving Pl., Garfield, 1913 Al, V7, ED43, S11, L35
 Enumerated with Fa-in-law John DiSalvo

Monaco, Samuel (M520):

Monaco, Samuel, 26, Italy, 320 Littleton Av, Newark, Essex Co, V43, ED258, S10, L51
 , Anne, 25, Italy, wife [Sam: 1905 Al]
 , Viat, 1 5/12, NJ, D

Amari, Filippo (A560) – no listing (not found 1930 in NY or NJ in ancestry)
DeCavalcante (D214) and Cavalcante (C142) – no listing; Simone/Sam born in 1919.

~~The~~ Big Con by David Maven, basis for The Sting.

1930

Monaco, Sam, 41, Italy, 44 5th Ave, Newark, Essex (ED3, p. 133)
 — Rose, 36 w. Italy (mar. 1945)
 — IDA 12 d NJ Pedrone, another

 — AMANDO 9 S
 — Arthur 7 S
 — YOUNG 6 d

Monaco, Sam 35, Italy ED 561, page 113 (MANACO?)
 — Harriet (7) 33 w Wily Tp, Essex Co
 Virgin
 Cathleen

1930

Monaco San, 45, 121 nests, etc

ED 119, p. 74

— Laura

So. Plainfield Tp. MDDiebas Co.

— Catene

— Rusty

Vivian

— Davies (S)

— May

SUGGESTED READING: Ed Reid and Ovid Demaris, *The Green Felt Jungle*. 1991.

DECARLO, ANGELO. ("Gyp") (b. 1902, Sicily—d. Oct. 20, 1973, Mountain-side, NJ). New Jersey loanshark and Genovese crime family* capo.*

Wiretaps in Angelo DeCarlo's headquarters in northern New Jersey revealed that an extensive political-criminal nexus including organized criminals, politicians, law enforcement officials, and businesspeople existed for many years and operated in a way that systematically defrauded the public. Some officials such as Congressman Peter Rodino were able to explain away the "Gyp's" references to him; others, such as Newark Mayor Hugh Addonizio and Hudson County political boss John J. Kenny, saw their political careers snuffed out.

Angelo DeCarlo was a career criminal associated with the Genovese Cosa Nostra family who offered no excuses for what he was, nor did he seek to hide the fact that he was, in his own words, a "hoodlum." Yet this self-declared thug managed to get a presidential pardon even after tapes of the lurid details of murders he committed and vicious beatings he administered were widely circulated by the FBI.

In 1970 he was sent to prison for 12 years on an extortion conviction, but within a year and a half, his sentence was commuted by President Richard Nixon. The rumor mill had all sorts of stories involving Vice President Spiro Agnew (who would later resign because of bribe-taking in construction projects when he was the mayor of Baltimore) and Frank Sinatra's interventions on behalf of this Mafia killer. DeCarlo's final act of criminal defiance occurred when he avoided paying the \$20,000 fine his sentence carried by dying five days before it was due.

SUGGESTED READING: Henry A. Zeiger, *The Jersey Mob*. 1975.

DECAVALCANTE, SAM "THE PLUMBER." (b. Simone Rizzo DeCavalcante, 1919—). New Jersey crime family* boss.

His brief career as a La Cosa Nostra* crime lord may have been no more than a hobby in the larger, less exciting context of DeCavalcante's legitimate occupation as a plumbing supply salesman. But the FBI wiretapped his offices for four years and may have unwittingly created a mafia chief. Sam the Plumber's "family" represented a loosely structured constellation of soldiers* on the margins of northern New Jersey's other mafia groups who were linked to the Genovese,* Bonanno,* and Gambino crime families,* in New York City.

DeCavalcante operated a plumbing and heating firm in Kenilworth, New Jersey, where the FBI recorded his conversations between 1961 and 1965. When Sam the Plumber went to trial on extortion charges in 1969, 13 volumes of transcripts were filed by the prosecution. The 13 volumes of transcripts, the "DeCavalcante Tapes," as they became known, confirmed much of Joseph Valachi's* 1963 revelations about the structure and operations of the Cosa Nostra.

The DeCavalcante crime family consisted of not more than 60 members, and

much of the boss's time in this period was occupied with personal romantic affairs, his assumption of leadership in 1964 after his predecessor Nick Dellmore's death, and the crisis in the Mafia's Commission* over Joseph Bonanno* and his family war.

Sam the Plumber was convicted in 1969 on an extortion-conspiracy charge and sentenced to 15 years. He served his term in the federal prison in Atlanta, Georgia, and retired to Florida. His crime family simply dissolved, and his career as a mafia boss ended abruptly.

SUGGESTED READING: Henry A. Zeiger, *Sam the Plumber*. 1970.

Robert J. Kelly, *Encyclopedia of Organized Crime in the United States* (Greenwood Press, Westport, CT, 2000)

- MAFIA
- CAMORRA
- MORELLO FAMILY
- BARREL MURDER
- 1914-17: MAFIA-CAMORRA WAR
- 1929-31: CASTELLAMARESE WARS
- 1929: CONFERENCE - ATLANTIC CITY
- 1946: CONFERENCE - HAVANA
- 1950-51: LEFAUVER HEARINGS
- 1957: CONFERENCE - APALACHIN
- DeCAVALCANTE
- FRANK MAJURI

Mafia

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

(Redirected from [History of the mafia](#))

This article is about the criminal society. For other uses, see [Mafia \(disambiguation\)](#).

The Mafia (also known as [Cosa Nostra](#)) is a [Sicilian criminal secret society](#) which is believed to have first developed in the mid-19th century in [Sicily](#). An offshoot emerged on the [East Coast](#) of the United States and in Australia^[1] during the late 19th century following waves of Sicilian and Southern Italian [emigration](#) (see also [Italian diaspora](#)). In North America, the Mafia often refers to Italian organized crime in general, rather than just traditional Sicilian organized crime. According to historian [Paolo Pezzino](#): "The Mafia is a kind of organized crime being active not only in several illegal fields, but also tending to exercise sovereignty functions – normally belonging to public authorities – over a specific territory..."^[2]

The Sicilian Cosa Nostra is a loose confederation of about one hundred Mafia groups, also called [cosche](#) or families, each of which claims sovereignty over a territory, usually a town or village or a neighborhood of a larger city, though without ever fully conquering and legitimizing its monopoly of violence. For many years, the power apparatuses of the single families were the sole ruling bodies within the two associations, and they have remained the real centers of power even after superordinate bodies were created in the Cosa Nostra beginning in the late 1950s (the [Sicilian Mafia Commission](#)).^[3]

Some observers have seen "mafia" as a set of attributes deeply rooted in popular culture, as a "way of being", as illustrated in the definition by the Sicilian ethnographer, [Giuseppe Pitrè](#), at the end of the 19th century: "Mafia is the consciousness of one's own worth, the exaggerated concept of individual force as the sole arbiter of every conflict, of every clash of interests or ideas."^[4]

Many Sicilians did not regard these men as criminals but as role models and protectors, given that the state appeared to offer no protection for the poor and weak. As late as the 1950s, the funeral epitaph of the legendary boss of Villalba, [Calogero Vizzini](#), stated that "his 'mafia' was not criminal, but stood for respect of the law, defense of all rights, greatness of character. It was love." Here, "mafia" means something like pride, honour, or even social responsibility: an attitude, not an organization. Likewise, in 1925, the former Italian Prime Minister [Vittorio Emanuele Orlando](#) stated in the Italian senate that he was proud of being *mafioso*, because that word meant honourable, noble, generous.^{[5][6]}

Contents	[hide]
1	Etymology
1.1	The real name: Cosa Nostra
2	Rituals of Sicilian Cosa Nostra
3	History of Sicilian Cosa Nostra
3.1	Origins
3.2	Mafia after the unification of Italy
3.3	Fascist era
3.4	The post-war revival
3.5	Maxi Trial and war against the government
3.6	The modern Mafia in Italy
4	Ten Commandments
5	Prominent Sicilian mafiosi
6	Structure of the Sicilian Cosa Nostra
6.1	Traditional terminology

- Printable version

Permanent link

Cite this page

languages

-
 - Bosanski
 - Български
 - Català
 - Česky
 - Dansk
 - Deutsch
 - Ελληνικά
 - Español
 - Esperanto
 - Euskara
 -
 - Français
 - Gaeilge
 -
 - Hrvatski
 - Bahasa Indonesia
 - Italiano
 - עברית

-
- [Lietuvių](#)
- [Magyar](#)
- [Македонски](#)
-
- [Bahasa Melayu](#)
- [Nederlands](#)
-
- [Norsk \(bokmål\)](#)
- [Polski](#)
- [Português](#)
- [Română](#)
- [Русский](#)
- [Shqip](#)
- [Sicilianu](#)
- [Simple English](#)
- [Slovenčina](#)
- [Slovenščina](#)
- [Српски / Srpski](#)
- [Suomi](#)
- [Svenska](#)
-
-
- [Tiếng Việt](#)
- [Türkçe](#)
- [Українська](#)
- [Vèneto](#)
-
-

6.2 Italian Mafia structure
7 American Cosa Nostra
8 See also
9 References
10 External links

Etymology

There are several theories about the origin of the term. The [Sicilian](#) adjective *mafiusu* may derive from the [Arabic](#) *mahyas*, meaning "aggressive boasting, bragging", or *marfud* meaning "rejected". Roughly translated, it means "swagger", but can also be translated as "boldness, bravado". In reference to a man, *mafiusu* in 19th century Sicily was ambiguous, signifying a bully, arrogant but also fearless, enterprising, and proud, according to scholar Diego Gambetta.^[7]

According to the Sicilian ethnographer [Giuseppe Pitrè](#), the association of the word with the criminal secret society was made by the 1863 play *I mafiusi di la Vicaria* (The Beautiful (people) of Vicaria) by [Giuseppe Rizzotto](#) and [Gaetano Mosca](#), which is about criminal gangs in the Palermo prison.^[8] The words *Mafia* and *mafiusi* (plural of *mafiusu*) are never mentioned in the play, and were probably put in the title because it would add local flair.

The association between *mafiusi* and criminal gangs was made by the association the play's title made with the criminal gangs that were new to Sicilian and Italian society at the time. Consequently, the word "mafia" was generated from a fictional source loosely inspired by the real thing and was used by outsiders to describe it. The use of the term "mafia" was subsequently taken over in the Italian state's early reports on the phenomenon. The word "mafia" made its first official appearance in 1865 in a report by the prefect of Palermo, [Filippo Antonio Gualterio](#).

[Leopoldo Franchetti](#), an Italian deputy who travelled to Sicily and who wrote one of the first authoritative reports on the mafia in 1876, saw the Mafia as an "industry of violence" and described the designation of the term "mafia": "the term mafia found a class of violent criminals ready and waiting for a name to define them, and, given their special character and importance in Sicilian society, they had the right to a different name from that defining vulgar criminals in other countries."^[9] He saw the Mafia as deeply rooted in Sicilian society and impossible to quench unless the very structure of the island's social institutions were to undergo a fundamental change.^[10]

According to popular myth, the word Mafia was first used in the Sicilian rebellion - the [Sicilian Vespers](#) - against the oppressive [Anjou](#) rule on 30 March 1282. Mafia is the acronym for "Morta Alla Francia, Italia Anela" (Italian for "Death to France. This is Italy's cry"). However, this version is discarded by most serious historians nowadays.

The real name: Cosa Nostra

According to some mafiosi, the real name of the Mafia is "*Cosa Nostra*" ("Our thing"). Many have claimed, as did the Mafia turncoat [Tommaso Buscetta](#), that the word "mafia" was a literary creation. Other Mafia defectors, such as [Antonio Calderone](#) and [Salvatore Contorno](#), said the same thing. According to them, the real thing was "cosa nostra". To men of honour belonging to the organization, there is no need to name it. Mafiosi introduce known members to other known members as belonging to "cosa nostra" (our thing) or *la stessa cosa* (the same thing), meaning "he is the same thing, a mafioso, as you". Only the outside world needs a name to describe it, hence the capitalized form "Cosa Nostra".

Cosa Nostra was first used, in the early 1960s, in the United States by [Joseph Valachi](#), a mafioso turned state witness, during the hearings of the [McClellan Commission](#).^{[11][12][13]} At the time, it was understood as a proper name, fostered by the [FBI](#) and disseminated by the media. The designation

gained wide popularity and almost replaced the term Mafia. The FBI even added an article to the term, calling it 'La Cosa Nostra'. In Italy the article 'la' is never used when the term refers to the Mafia.

The Mafia has used many other names to describe itself throughout its history, such as *The Honoured Society*. Mafiosi are known among themselves as *Men of Honour*.

Rituals of Sicilian Cosa Nostra

The orientation ritual in most families happens when a man becomes an associate, and then, a soldier. As described by [Tommaso Buscetta](#) to judge [Giovanni Falcone](#), the neophyte is brought together with at least three "men of honor" of the family and the oldest member present warns him that "this House" is meant to protect the weak against the abuse of the powerful; he then pricks the finger of the initiate and spills his blood onto a sacred image, usually of a saint. The image is placed in the hand of the initiate and lit on fire. The neophyte must withstand the pain of the burning, passing the image from hand to hand, until the image has been consumed, while swearing to keep faith with the principles of "Cosa Nostra," solemnly swearing "may my flesh burn like this saint if I fail to keep my oath." Joseph Valachi was the first person to mention that in court.

The Sicilians also have a law of silence, called [omertà](#); it forbids the common man, woman or child to cooperate at all with the police or the government, upon pain of death.

History of Sicilian Cosa Nostra

Origins

It has long been debated whether the mafia has medieval origins. Deceased *pentito* [Tommaso Buscetta](#) thought so, whilst modern scholars now believe otherwise. It is possible that the "original" mafia formed as a secret society sworn to protect the Sicilian population from the threat of Catalan marauders in the fifteenth century. However, there is very little historical evidence to suggest this. It is also feasible that the "[Robin Hood](#)" origins, which are closely intertwined with the Sicilian outlaw [Salvatore Giuliano](#), were perpetuated by the earliest known *mafiosi* as a means of gaining goodwill and trust from the Sicilian people. This origin states that the Mafia is a means for righteous rebels to defend the people against oppression, Roman and Northern Italian control, and outside invasion.

The involvement of the Mafia (or an early form of it) in the [Sicilian Vespers](#) uprising of 1282, a rebellion in which many occupying French officials were simultaneously killed as a prelude to throwing the French out of Sicily in favor of allies in Spain, has never been entirely confirmed with certainty.

After the [Revolution of 1848](#) and the [revolution of 1860](#), Sicily had fallen to complete disorder. The earliest mafiosi (at that time separate small bands of outlaws) offered their guns in the revolt. Author John Dickie claims that the main reasons for this were the chance to burn police records and evidence, and to kill off police and pentiti in the chaos. However, once a new government was established in Rome and it became clear that the mafia would be unable to execute these actions, they began refining their methods and techniques over the latter half of the nineteenth century. Protecting the large lemon groves and estates of local nobility became a lucrative but dangerous business. [Palermo](#) was initially the main area of these activities, but the Sicilian mafia's dominance soon spread over all of western Sicily. In order to strengthen the bond between the disparate gangs and so ensure greater profits and a safer working environment, it is possible that the mafia as such was formed at this time in about the mid-19th century.

Mafia after the unification of Italy

From 1860, the year when the new unified Italian state first took over both Sicily and the [Papal States](#), the Popes were hostile to the state. From 1870, the Pope declared himself besieged by the Italian state

and strongly encouraged Catholics to refuse to cooperate with the state. Broadly speaking, in mainland Italy, this did not lead to violence. [Sicily](#) was strongly [Catholic](#), but in a strongly tribal sense rather than in an intellectual and theological sense, and had a tradition of suspicion of outsiders. The friction between the Church and the state gave a great advantage to violent criminal bands in Sicily who could claim to peasants and townspeople that cooperating with the police (representing the new Italian state) was an anti-Catholic activity. It was in the two decades following the 1860 unification that the term Mafia came to the attention of the general public, although it was considered to be more of an attitude and value system than an organization.

The first mention in official law documentation of the 'mafia' came in the late 1800s, when a Dr. Galati was subject to threats of violence from a local mafioso, who was attempting to oust Galati from his own lemon grove in order to move himself in. Protection rackets, cattle rustling and bribery of state officials were the main sources of income and protection for the early mafia. Cosa Nostra also borrowed heavily from masonic oaths and rituals, such as the now famous initiation ceremony.

Fascist era

During the [Fascist](#) period in Italy, [Cesare Mori](#), prefect of Palermo, used special powers granted to him to prosecute the Mafia, forcing many Mafiosi to flee abroad or risk being jailed.^{[14][15]} Many of the Mafiosi who escaped fled to the United States, among them [Joseph Bonanno](#), nicknamed Joe Bananas, who came to dominate the U.S. branch of the Mafia. However, when Mori started to persecute the Mafiosi involved in the Fascist hierarchy, he was removed, and the Fascist authorities proclaimed that the Mafia had been defeated. Though the mafia was weakened, it had not been defeated as claimed. Despite his assault on their brethren, Mussolini had his admirers in the New York Mafia, notably [Vito Genovese](#) (although he was from Naples and not from Sicily).

The post-war revival

After Fascism, the Mafia did not become powerful in Italy again until after the country's surrender in [World War II](#) and the U.S. occupation. The United States used Italian connections of American Mafiosi during the invasion of Italy and Sicily in 1943. [Lucky Luciano](#) and other Mafiosi, who had been imprisoned during this time in the U.S., provided information for U.S. military intelligence and used Luciano's influence to ease the way for advancing troops. Furthermore, Luciano's control of the ports prevented sabotage by agents of the Axis powers.^[16]

Some say that the U.S. [Office of Strategic Services](#), precursor to the [CIA](#), deliberately allowed the mafia to recover its social and economic position as the "anti-State" in Sicily, and with the U.S.-mafia alliance forged in 1943, this became the true turning point of mafia history and the new foundation for its subsequent 60-year career.^[*citation needed*] Others, such as the Palermitan historian [Francesco Renda](#), have argued that there was no such alliance. Rather, the mafia exploited the chaos of post-fascist Sicily to reconquer its social base. The OSS indeed, in its 1944 "Report on the Problem of Mafia" by the agent W. E. Scotten, pointed to the signs of mafia resurgence and warned of its perils for social order and economic progress.

An alleged additional benefit (from the American perspective) was that many of the Sicilian-Italian Mafiosi were hard-line anti-[communists](#). They were therefore seen as valuable allies by the anti-communist Americans, who allegedly used them to root out socialist and communist elements in the American shipping industry as well as wartime resistance movements and postwar local and regional governments in areas where the Mafia held sway.^[*citation needed*]

According to drug trade expert Dr. [Alfred W. McCoy](#), Luciano was permitted to run his crime network from his jail cell in exchange for his assistance. After the war, Luciano was rewarded by being released from prison and deported to Italy, where he was able to continue his criminal career unhindered. He went to Sicily in 1946 to continue his activities and according to McCoy's landmark 1972 book *The Politics of Heroin in South-East Asia*, Luciano went on to forge a crucial alliance with the [Corsican](#)

Mafia, leading to the development of a vast international [heroin trafficking](#) network, initially supplied from [Turkey](#) and based in [Marseille](#) — the so-called "[French Connection](#)".

Later, when Turkey began to eliminate its [opium](#) production, he used his connections with the [Corsicans](#) to open a dialogue with expatriate Corsican mafiosi in [South Vietnam](#). In collaboration with leading American mob bosses including [Santo Trafficante Jr.](#), Luciano and his successors took advantage of the chaotic conditions in [Southeast Asia](#) arising from the [Vietnam War](#) to establish an unassailable supply and distribution base in the "[Golden Triangle](#)", which was soon funneling huge amounts of Asian heroin into the United States, Australia and other countries.^[17]

Maxi Trial and war against the government

The [Second Mafia War](#) in the early 1980s was a large scale conflict within the Mafia that also led to the assassinations of several politicians, police chiefs and magistrates. [Salvatore Riina](#) and his [Corleonesi](#) faction ultimately prevailed in the war. The new generation of mafiosi placed more emphasis on "white-collar" criminal activity as opposed to more traditional racketeering enterprises. In reaction to these developments, the Italian press has come up with the phrase *Cosa Nuova* ("the new thing", a play on *Cosa Nostra*) to refer to the revamped organization.

The first major [pentito](#) (a captured mafioso who collaborated with the judicial system) was [Tommaso Buscetta](#) who had lost several allies in the war and began to talk to prosecutor [Giovanni Falcone](#) around 1983. This led to the [Maxi Trial](#) (1986-1987) which resulted in several hundred convictions of leading mafiosi. When the Italian Supreme Court confirmed the convictions in January 1992, Riina took revenge. The politician [Salvatore Lima](#) was killed in March 1992; he had long been suspected of being the main government connection of the Mafia (later confirmed by testimony of Buscetta), and the Mafia was clearly displeased with his services. Falcone and fellow anti-Mafia prosecutor [Paolo Borsellino](#) were killed a few months later. This led to a public outcry and a massive government crackdown, resulting in Riina's arrest in January 1993. More and more *pentitos* started to emerge. Many would pay a high price for their co-operation usually through the murder of relatives. For example, Cosa Nostra defector [Francesco Marino Mannoia's](#) mother, aunt and sister were murdered.^[18]

The Corleonesi retaliated with a campaign of terrorism, a series of bombings against several tourist spots on the Italian mainland: the [Via dei Georgofili](#) in [Florence](#), [Via Palestro](#) in [Milan](#), and the [Piazza San Giovanni in Laterano](#) and [Via San Teodoro](#) in [Rome](#), which left 10 people dead and 93 injured and caused severe damage to cultural heritage such as the [Uffizi Gallery](#). [Bernardo Provenzano](#) took over as boss of the Corleonesi and halted this campaign and replaced it with a campaign of quietness known as *pax mafiosi*. This campaign has allowed the Mafia to slowly regain the power it once had. He was arrested in 2006, after 43 years on the run.

The modern Mafia in Italy

The main split in the Sicilian Mafia at present is between those bosses who have been convicted and are now imprisoned, chiefly Riina and *capo di tutti capi* [Bernardo Provenzano](#), and those who are on the run, or who have not been indicted. The incarcerated bosses are currently subjected to harsh controls on their contact with the outside world, limiting their ability to run their operations from behind bars under the [article 41 bis prison regime](#). [Antonino Giuffrè](#) – a close confidant of Provenzano, turned *pentito* shortly after his capture in 2002 – alleges that in 1993, *Cosa Nostra* had direct contact with representatives of [Silvio Berlusconi](#) who was then planning the birth of [Forza Italia](#).

The deal that he says was alleged to have been made was a repeal of 41 bis, among other anti-Mafia laws in return for electoral deliverances in Sicily. Giuffrè's declarations have not been confirmed. The Italian Parliament, with the support of [Forza Italia](#), extended the enforcement of 41 bis, which was to expire in 2002 but has been prolonged for another four years and extended to other crimes such as terrorism. However, according to one of Italy's leading magazines, [L'Espresso](#), 119 mafiosi – one-fifth of those incarcerated under the 41 bis regime – have been released on an individual basis.^[19] The human

rights group [Amnesty International](#) has expressed concern that the 41-bis regime could in some circumstances amount to "cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment" for prisoners.

In addition to [Salvatore Lima](#), mentioned above, the politician [Giulio Andreotti](#) and the High Court judge [Corrado Carnevale](#) have long been suspected of having ties to the Mafia.

By the late 1990s, the weakened Cosa Nostra had to yield most of the illegal drug trade to the '[Ndrangheta](#) crime organization from [Calabria](#). In 2006, the latter was estimated to control 80% of the [cocaine](#) import to Europe.^[20] The mafia also have a strong business in extortion big companies as well as smaller ones. It estimates that 7% of Italy's output is filtered off by organised crime. The Mafia has turned into one of Italy's biggest business enterprises with a turnover of more than US\$120bn a year.^[21]

Ten Commandments

In November 2007 Sicilian police reported to have found a list of "Ten Commandments" in the hideout of mafia boss [Salvatore Lo Piccolo](#). Similar to the [Biblical Ten Commandments](#), they are thought to be a guideline on how to be a good, respectful honorable mafioso. The commandments are as follows:^[22]

1. No one can present himself directly to another of our friends. There must be a third person to do it.
2. Never look at the wives of friends.
3. Never be seen with cops.
4. Don't go to pubs and clubs.
5. Always being available for Cosa Nostra is a duty - even if your wife's about to give birth.
6. Appointments must absolutely be respected.
7. Wives must be treated with respect.
8. When asked for any information, the answer must be the truth.
9. Money cannot be appropriated if it belongs to others or to other families.
10. People who can't be part of Cosa Nostra: anyone who has a close relative in the police, anyone with a two-timing relative in the family, anyone who behaves badly and doesn't hold to moral values.

Prominent Sicilian mafiosi

See also: [List of Sicilian mafiosi](#)

- [Vito Cascio Ferro](#) Prominent early Don, imprisoned by [Cesare Mori](#).
- [Calogero Vizzini](#) (1877 – 1954), boss of [Villalba](#), was considered to be one of the most influential Mafia bosses of Sicily after World War II until his death in 1954.
- [Giuseppe Genco Russo](#) (1893 – 1976), boss of [Mussomeli](#), considered to be the heir of Calogero Vizzini.
- [Michele Navarra](#) (1905 – 1958), boss of the Mafia Family in [Corleone](#) from 1940s to 1958
- [Salvatore "Ciaschiteddu" Greco](#) (1923 – 1978), boss of the Mafia Family in [Ciaculli](#), he was the first "secretary" of the first [Sicilian Mafia Commission](#) that was formed somewhere in 1958.
- [Gaetano Badalamenti](#) (1923 – 2004), boss of the Mafia Family in [Cinisi](#)
- [Angelo La Barbera](#) (1924 – 1975) boss of the Mafia Family in [Palermo Centro](#)
- [Michele Greco](#) (1924 – 2008), boss of the Mafia Family in [Croceverde](#)
- [Luciano Liggio](#) (1925 – 1993), boss of the Mafia Family in [Corleone](#)
- [Tommaso Buscetta](#) (1928 – 2000), Sicilian Mafioso who became a [pentito](#) (informant) in 1984. Buscetta's evidence was used to great effect during the [Maxi-Trials](#).
- [Salvatore Riina](#) (born 1930), also known as Totò Riina is one of the most infamous members of the Sicilian Mafia. He was nicknamed The Beast, or sometimes The Short One ('U Curtu in Sicilian) and

ruled the Mafia with an iron hand from the 1980s until his arrest in 1993.

- **Bernardo Provenzano** (born 1933), successor of Riina at the head of the **Corleonesi** and as such considered one of the most powerful bosses of the Sicilian Mafia. Provenzano was a fugitive from justice since 1963. He was captured on 11 April 2006 in Sicily.^[23] Before capture, authorities had reportedly been 'close' to capturing him for 10 years.
- **Stefano Bontade** (1939 – 1981), boss of the Mafia Family in **Santa Maria di Gesù**
- **Leoluca Bagarella** (born 1941), member of the Mafia Family in **Corleone** arrested in 1995
- **Salvatore Lo Piccolo** (born 1942), considered to be one of the successors of Provenzano.
- **Salvatore Inzerillo** (1944 – 1981), boss of the Mafia Family in **Passo di Rigano**
- **Giovanni 'Lo Scannacristiani' Brusca** (born 1957), who was involved in the murder of **Giovanni Falcone**.
- **Matteo Messina Denaro** (born 1962), considered to be one of the successors of Provenzano.
- **Michele Cavataio** died in Mafia hit in 1969
- **Benedetto Santapaola** (born 1938), the most important boss of **Catania**.

Structure of the Sicilian Cosa Nostra

Known as the Honored Society among Mafiosi, the chain of command is organized in a pyramid similar to a modern corporate structure.^[citation needed]

Traditional terminology

1. **Capo di Tutti Capi** (the "Boss of All Bosses", namely **Matteo Messina Denaro** for the Sicilian Mafia and **Renato Gagliano** for the Sacra Corona Unita)^[citation needed]
2. **Capo di Capi Re** (a title of respect given to a senior or retired member, equivalent to being a member *emeritus*, literally, "King Boss of Bosses")^[citation needed]
3. **Capo Crimine** ("Crime Boss", known as a Don - the head of a crime family)^[citation needed]
4. **Capo Bastone** ("Club Head", known as the "**Underboss**" is second in command to the Capo Crimine)^[citation needed]
5. **Consigliere** (an advisor)^[citation needed]
6. **Caporegime** ("Regime head", a captain who commands a "crew" of around ten *Sgarriste* or "soldiers")^[citation needed]
7. **Sgarrista** or **Soldato** ("Soldier", **made** members of the Mafia who serve primarily as foot soldiers)^[citation needed]^[citation needed]
8. **Picciotto** ("Little man", a low ranking member who serves as an "enforcer")^[citation needed]
9. **Giovane D'Onore** (an associate member, usually someone not of Italian ancestry)^[citation needed]

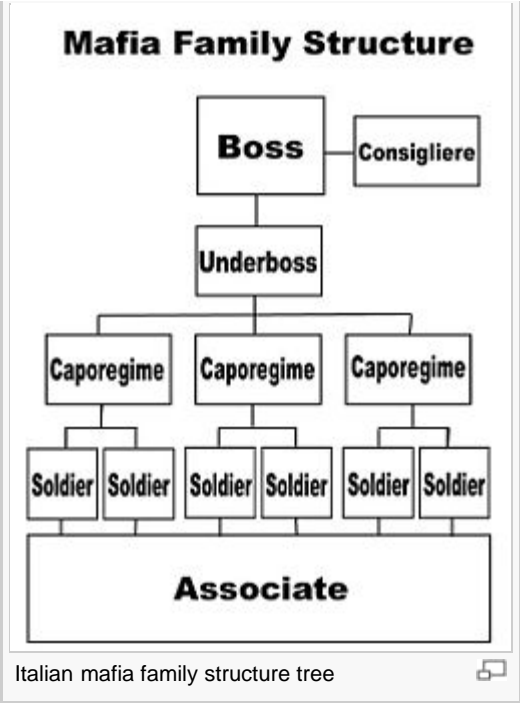
Italian Mafia structure

1. **Capofamiglia** - (Don/Boss)
2. **Consigliere** - (Counselor/Advisor/Right-hand man)
3. **Sotto Capo** - (Underboss/Second-in-command)
4. **Capodecina** - (Captain/Capo)
5. **Uomini D'onore** - ("Men of Honor"/Made men/Soldiers)

American Cosa Nostra

Main article: *American Mafia*

The American Mafia (also known as La Cosa Nostra) is an offshoot of the [Sicilian](#) Mafia that emerged on the [East Coast](#) of the United States during the late 19th century following waves of Sicilian and Southern Italian [emigration](#) (see also [Italian diaspora](#)). In North America, the Mafia often refers to Italian organized crime in general, rather than just traditional Sicilian organized crime.



See also

- [Gang](#)
- [Gangster](#)
- [Organized crime](#)
- [Timeline of organized crime](#)
- [Italian organized crime](#)
- [Omertà](#)
- [Vendetta](#)
- [Camorra](#)
- [Mafia-Camorra War](#)
- [List of Mafia crime families](#)
- [List of criminal organizations](#)
- [Crime in New York City](#)
- [Five Families](#)
- [American Mafia](#)
- [Irish Mob](#)
- [Yakuza](#) ("Japanese Mafia")
- [Triad society](#) ("Chinese Mafia")

References

- [↑] [Omerta in the Antipodes](#) , Time, 31 January 1964
- [↑] [The mafia](#) , by Domenico Airoma
- [↑] [Review of Paoli, Mafia Brotherhoods](#) by Klaus Von Lampe
- [↑] Giuseppe Pitrè, *Usi e costumi, credenze e pregiudizi del popolo siciliano*, Palermo 1889
- [↑] Arlacchi, *Mafia Business*, p. 181
- [↑] Dickie, *Cosa Nostra*, p. 183
- [↑] This etymology is based on the books *Mafioso* by Gaia Servadio; *The Sicilian Mafia* by Diego Gambetta; and *Cosa Nostra* by John Dickie (see [Books](#) below).
- [↑] Gambetta, *The Sicilian Mafia*, p. 136

9. [^]

Gambetta, *The Sicilian Mafia*, p. 137

10. [^]

Servadio, *Mafioso*, p. 42-43

11. [^]

[Their Thing](#) , Time, 16 August 1963

12. [^]

[Killers in Prison](#) , Time, 4 October 1963

13. [^]

["The Smell of It"](#) , Time, 11 October 1963

14. [^]

[Mafia Trial](#) , Time, 24 October 1927

15. [^]

[Mafia Scotched](#) , Time, 23 January 1928

16. [^]

"The wartime collaboration of Sicilian-born Salvatore "Lucky" Luciano with the United States Navy may have made the Allied invasion of Sicily smoother than it otherwise would have been, but the Iron Prefect's enforcement of the Duce's laws had already made most mafiosi sympathetic to the American cause, or at least hostile to the Fascist one." [The Mafia](#) from [bestofsicily.com](#)

17. [^]

The Politics of Heroin in Southeast Asia, by Alfred W. McCoy with Cathleen B. Read and Leonard P. Adams II, 1972, [ISBN 0060129018](#)

18. [^]

Cosa Nostra by John Dickie

19. [^]

(Italian) [Caserta, revocato 41 bis a figlio Bidognetti: lo dice ancora l'Espresso](#) , Casertasete, January , 2006

20. [^]

[Move over, Cosa Nostra](#) , *The Guardian*, 8 Juni 2006

21. [^]

Wiley, David (Monday, 22 October 2007, 21:57 GMT 22:57 UK). "[Italian Mafia turnover '\\$120bn'](#)" , *BBC News*. Retrieved on [2008-09-16](#).

22. [^]

["Mafia's 'Ten Commandments' found"](#) . *BBC News* (2007-11-09). Retrieved on [2008-09-16](#).

23. [^]

["Top Mafia boss' caught in Italy](#)

■

Arlacchi, Pino (1988). *Mafia Business. The Mafia Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*, Oxford: Oxford University Press [ISBN 0-19-285197-7](#)

■

Chubb, Judith (1989). [The Mafia and Politics](#) , Cornell Studies in International Affairs, Occasional Papers No. 23.

■

Dickie, John (2004). *Cosa Nostra. A history of the Sicilian Mafia*, London: Coronet [ISBN 0-340-82435-2](#)

■

Gambetta, Diego (1993). *The Sicilian Mafia: The Business of Private Protection*, London: Harvard University Press, [ISBN 0-674-80742-1](#)

■

Servadio, Gaia (1976), *Mafioso. A history of the Mafia from its origins to the present day*, London: Secker & Warburg [ISBN 0-436-44700-2](#)

External links

■

[Gangs turn Naples into battleground](#)

■

[Site of Italian Mafia](#) (Russian)

■

[The financial mafia. The illegal accumulation of wealth and the financial-industrial complex](#) by Umberto Santino, in "Contemporary Crises" 12, Kluwer Academic Publishers, Dordrecht, September 1988, pp.203-243

■

[The Mafia and Politics](#) , by Judith Chubb, Cornell Studies in International Affairs, Occasional Papers No. 23, 1989.

■

[Italy Enraged by Russia's Putin Risky Mafia Joke](#) , by RussianSpy.org, October 2006

■

[BBC News - Rome hosts major anti-mafia forum](#) - 17 January 2006

■

[Competing for Protection: Land Fragmentation and the Rise of the Sicilian Mafia](#) [PDF](#) (97.3 KiB), by Oriana Bandiera, London School of Economics, August 1999

■

[Camorra, the neapolitan mafia](#) (Italian)

■

[Gangrule, American mafia history](#)

■

[The Mafia in Sicilian History](#)

■

[Mobwatcher](#) (Italian)

■

[American Cosa Nostra](#) (Italian)

■

[Cosa Nostra - Rebranding the Mafia](#)

■

[mafia-news.com](#)

file:///P:/Genealogy/History/Mafia/Mafia%20-%20Wikipedia,%20the%20free%20encyclopedia.htm[9/6/2010 10:37:38 PM]

[American Organized Crime - La Cosa Nostra](#)

- [Italian Mafia Terms Defined](#)
- [The 26 Original American Mafia Families- AmericanMafia.com](#)
- [FBI Mafia Monograph](#)
- [Mafia](#) (Turkish)

Categories: [Sicily](#) | [Mafia](#) | [Organized crime groups in Italy](#) | [Anti-communism](#) | [Organized crime terminology](#)



This page was last modified on 21 September 2008, at 07:22. All text is available under the terms of the [GNU Free Documentation License](#). (See [Copyrights](#) for details.)



Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the [Wikimedia Foundation, Inc.](#), a U.S. registered [501\(c\)\(3\) tax-deductible nonprofit charity](#).
[Privacy policy](#) [About Wikipedia](#) [Disclaimers](#)

Camorra

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The Camorra is a **mafia-like criminal organisation**, or **secret society**, originating in the region of **Campania** and the city of **Naples** in **Italy**. It finances itself through drug-trafficking, prostitution, smuggling, money-laundering and blackmail, and its activities have led to high levels of homicide in the areas in which it operates. It is the oldest organized criminal organization in Italy.

Contents [\[hide\]](#)

1 Background

2 Activities

3 The Garbage Crisis

4 Presence in America

5 Presence outside Italy

5.1 The Camorra in the UK

6 In popular Culture

7 See also

8 Notes

9 References

10 External links

Background

[\[edit\]](#)

The Camorra is said by some authoritative sources to have originated with the **Garduna**, a late-Middle-Ages criminal society based in Seville, Spain, which was transported to Naples when Spain took control of the region. The Camorra was at its height in the 19th century, when the **Bourbon monarchy** in Naples used its members in the **police**, **army**, and **civil service**. Once Naples became a part of a united Italy in 1861, the Camorra was suppressed and many of its members fled to the **United States** where they joined the Italian-American Mafia. The Camorra was supplanted after **Benito Mussolini**'s takeover in 1922.

Compared to its counterparts elsewhere in Italy, **Sacra corona unita** in **Puglia** and **'Ndrangheta** in **Calabria**, it was more involved in **piracy**.

Activities

[\[edit\]](#)

Compared to the **Sicilian Cosa Nostra**'s pyramidal structure, the Camorra is made up of many clans that often fight each other. The Boss **Raffaele Cutolo** made an attempt to unify the Camorra families in the manner of the Sicilian Mafia, by forming the **New Organized Camorra** (*Nuova Camorra Organizzata* or **NCO**), but this proved

Camorra



Map highlighting the location of Campania in Italy

Presumed Origin	the Spanish Garduna
Creation	XVI century
Actual Number	7,000 members
Principals Families	150 'clans'
Activities	Blackmail , Illegal gambling , Casino , Prostitution , Trafficking



Camorristi in Naples, 1906



unsuccessful. [Drive-by shootings](#) by *camorristi* often result in casualties among the local population, but such episodes are often difficult to investigate because of widespread [Omertà](#) (code of silence). Currently it is estimated there are about 111 Camorra families and over 6,700 members in Naples and surroundings. According to a report from Confesercenti, the second-largest Italian Trade Organisation, published on 22 October 2007 in the [Corriere della Sera](#), the Camorra control the milk and fish industries, the coffee trade, and over 2,500 bakeries in the city.^[1]

In 2004 and 2005 two parts of the Di Lauro Clan and so-called "Scissionisti" fought a bloody feud. The result was over 100 street-killings. At the end of October 2006 a new series of murders took place in Naples between 20 competing clans, that cost 12 killed in 10 days. The Interior Minister Giuliano Amato decided to send more than 1,000 extra police and Carabinieri to Naples to fight crime and protect tourists.^[2] It didn't help much--in the following year there were over 120 murders.

The Garbage Crisis

[\[edit\]](#)

Since the mid-1990s, the Camorra has taken over the handling of garbage disposal in the region of [Campania](#), with [disastrous results](#) for the environment and the health of the general population. [Heavy metals](#), industrial waste and chemicals and household [garbage](#) are frequently mixed together, dumped near roads and burnt to avoid detection, leading to a severe soil and air pollution. As of June 2007, the region has no serviceable dumping sites and no alternatives have been found. Together with corrupt local officials and unscrupulous industrialists from all over Italy, the Camorra has created a cartel that has so far proved very difficult to combat for officials.^[3]

Presence in America

[\[edit\]](#)

The Camorra existed in USA between the mid-1800s and early 1900s. They rivaled the [Morello crime family](#) for power in [New York](#). Eventually, they melded with the early American [Mafia](#) groups.

Presence outside Italy

[\[edit\]](#)

The Camorra in the UK

[\[edit\]](#)

[Scotland](#) has had its brush with the Camorra. [Antonio La Torre](#) of [Aberdeen](#), [Scotland](#) was a "*Don*" of the Camorra. He is the brother of Camorra boss, [Augusto La Torre](#) of the [La Torre clan](#) which had its base in [Mondragone](#), [Caserta](#). The La Torre Clan's empire was worth hundreds of millions of euros. Antonio had several legitimate businesses in Aberdeen, whereas his brother Augusto had several illegal businesses there. He was convicted in Scotland and is awaiting extradition to Italy. Augusto would eventually become a [pentito](#) in January 2003, confessing to over 40 murders and his example would be followed by many of his men.^{[4][5]}

Two Aberdeen restaurateurs, [Ciro Schiattarella](#) and [Michele Siciliano](#) were extradited to Italy for their part in the "Aberdeen Camorra". A fourth Scottish associate named [Brandon Queen](#) who made history by becoming the first foreign member of the Camorra is currently serving a jail sentence in the UK. It has been reported that he also receives a monthly salary, legal assistance and protection, something only members of the Clans receive. Neapolitan writer and expert on the Camorra, [Roberto Saviano](#), states that the Camorra has created a branch in Aberdeen the size of the city and that it is the focus of the La Torre clan's British operations.^{[6] [5][7]}

Saviano alleges that from the 1980s, Italian gangsters ran a network of lucrative businesses in the city as well as many illegal rackets. Saviano said Scotland's third city, with no history of organised crime, was seen as an attractive safe haven away from the violent inter-gang blood-letting that had engulfed their Neapolitan stronghold of Mondragone. Saviano claims that before the Italian clans arrived, Aberdeen didn't know how to exploit its resources for recreation and tourism. He further states that the

Italians infused the city with economic energy, revitalised the tourist industry, inspired new import-export activities and injected new vigour in the real-estate sector. It thereby turned Aberdeen into a chic, an elegant address for fine dining and important dealings.^[7]

The hub of La Torre's UK empire, Pavarotti's restaurant, now under different ownership, was even feted at Italissima, a prestigious gastronomic fair held in Paris. Saviano further claims to have gone to Aberdeen and worked in a restaurant run by Antonio La Torre. The Camorristas operated a system known as "*scratch*" where they used to step up illegal activities if their legitimate ventures were struggling. If cash was short they had counterfeit notes printed; if capital was needed in a hurry, they sold bogus treasury bonds. They annihilated the competition through extortions and imported merchandise tax-free. The Camorra were able to run all sort of deals because the local police had virtually no experience in dealing with organised crime. Although they broke the law, there was never any guns or serious violence, due to lack of rivals.^[7]

However, the suggestion that the city remains in the grip of mobsters has been strongly denied by leaders of the 300 strong Italian community in Aberdeen. Moreover, Giuseppe Baldini, the Italian government's vice-consul in Aberdeen denies that the Camorra still maintains its presence in Aberdeen.^[7]

In popular Culture

[edit]

- *Camorra* is a 1972 [movie](#), directed by [Pasquale Squitieri](#), starring [Fabio Testi](#) and [Jean Seberg](#).
- The 2006 book by [Roberto Saviano](#), *Gomorrah*, investigates the activities of the Camorra in Italy, Germany, Spain, Portugal and Scotland. The book has also been adapted to film with the title *Gomorra* by [Matteo Garrone](#) in 2008.
- The computer game "[The Elder Scrolls III: Morrowind](#)", there is a Mafia-like organization named the "Camonna Tong", possibly a combination of Camorra and the Chinese criminal society, "[Tong](#)".

See also

[edit]

[2008 Naples garbage crisis](#)

Towns with a strong influence of Camorra in their economic life (according to a 2000 report of the Italian Parliament):

- [Marigliano](#)
- [Naples](#)
- [Nola](#)
- [Casal di Principe](#)

Notes

[edit]

1. [^] „Die Mafia ist Italiens führendes Unternehmen“ , [Die Welt](#), 23. Oktober 2007
2. [^] Paul Kreiner: „Mit mehr Polizei gegen die Camorra“ , [Tagesspiegel](#), 6. November 2006, „Italiens Innenminister verstärkt Kampf gegen Neapels lokale Mafia – aber die Justiz ist völlig überlastet.“
3. [^] Loewe, Peter (2007-04-07). "Här tvättar maffian sina knarkpengar " (in Swedish), *Dagens Nyheter* (Stockholm), [Bonnier AB](#). Retrieved on 2008-08-15.
4. [^] ^[1] .
5. [^] ^a ^b [Augusto La Torre](#)
6. [^] ^[2]
7. [^] ^a ^b ^c ^d ^[3]

References

[edit]

- "Politics & Racket. To train in earth of boss"
- [Roberto Saviano](#) - journalist and writer on various aspects of Camorra

External links

[edit]

- [Camorra's clans](#)
- „Die Camorra“
- [Articles by Roberto Saviano published on](#) [Nazione Indiana](#)
- [Press release of Gomorra](#) [Gomorra](#) at [Bologna](#), 27-06-2006, by [Wu Ming](#) (AUDIO)
- *Il Sistema Camorra* , Interviewed by [Arcoiris TV](#) (VIDEO)
- *Time* on Roberto Saviano

Categories: [History of the Camorra in Italy](#) | [Organized crime groups in Italy](#) | [Campania](#)



This page was last modified on 24 September 2008, at 11:22. All text is available under the terms of the [GNU Free Documentation License](#). (See [Copyrights](#) for details.)



Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the [Wikimedia Foundation, Inc.](#), a U.S. registered [501\(c\)\(3\) tax-deductible nonprofit charity](#).
[Privacy policy](#) [About Wikipedia](#) [Disclaimers](#)

[article](#) [discussion](#) [edit this page](#) [history](#)

Morello crime family

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



This article or section includes a [list of references](#) or [external links](#), but its sources remain unclear because it lacks [inline citations](#). You can [improve](#) this article by introducing more precise citations [where appropriate](#). *(June 2007)*

The Morello crime family was one of the earliest crime families to be established in the United States and New York City. The Morello crime family was based in [Manhattan's East Harlem](#) and would establish dominance over the New York Sicilian mafia families operating in the Italian-American underworld. The crime family eventually gained dominance in the Italian underworld by defeating the rival Neapolitan [Camorra](#) of [Brooklyn](#). Many of the organizations members included such criminals as [Ignazio "Lupo the Wolf" Saietta](#), [Giuseppe "Joe the Boss" Masseria](#), [Francesco "Frankie Yale" Uale](#), [Umberto "Rocco" Valenti](#), [Tomasso "The Ox" Petto](#) and [Charles Ubriaco](#) as well as others becoming future leaders of the "[Five Families](#)" such as [Charles "Lucky" Luciano](#), [Frank "the Prime Minister" Costello](#), [Vito Genovese](#) and [Giuseppe "Joe Adonis" Doto](#). The Morello crime family's successors would gain control of New York city's criminal rackets following the fall of the Irish and Jewish gangsters who dominated New York's underworld in the beginning of the twentieth century.

Contents [hide]

- 1 History of the Morello Crime Family
 - 1.1 Early history
 - 1.2 Counterfeiting Scandal
 - 1.3 Mafia-Camorra War
 - 1.4 A Crime Family Divided, The Morello-Masseria-Valenti Conflict
- 2 Bosses of the Morello Crime Family
- 3 References
- 4 External links

Morello Crime Family



Peter Morello, a former Morello boss

In	East Harlem, Manhattan
Founded by	Morello and Terranova brothers
Years active	1892-1922
Territory	East Harlem, Manhattan South Bronx Brooklyn Waterfront
Ethnicity	Sicilian
Membership	25-50 people
Criminal activities	Racketeering Counterfeiting Extortion conspiracy Murder
Allies	Sicilian Mafia Cosa Nostra
Rivals	Neapolitan Camorra

History of the Morello Crime Family [\[edit\]](#)

Early history [\[edit\]](#)

The Morello crime family was established by brothers [Antonio](#), [Nicolo](#), and [Giuseppe Morello](#) and half-brothers [Vincenzo "Vincent" Terranova](#) and [Ciro "The Artichoke King" Terranova](#) following their arrival from [Corleone, Sicily](#) in 1892. Originally known as the **116th Street Mob**, the Morellos quickly established dominance within the predominantly Italian neighborhood of East Harlem, Manhattan and parts of the Bronx and eventually Brooklyn. The Morello gang as they were known early in their criminal careers quickly found it advantageous to ally themselves with fellow Corleonese mafioso and [Black](#)

navigation

- [Main page](#)
- [Contents](#)
- [Featured content](#)
- [Current events](#)
- [Random article](#)

search

interaction

- [About Wikipedia](#)
- [Community portal](#)
- [Recent changes](#)
- [Contact Wikipedia](#)
- [Donate to Wikipedia](#)
- [Help](#)

toolbox

- [What links here](#)
- [Related changes](#)
- [Upload file](#)
- [Special pages](#)
- [Printable version](#)
- [Permanent link](#)
- [Cite this page](#)

Hand leader, [Ignazio "Lupo the Wolf" Saitta](#) who had arrived in America in 1889 after fleeing Sicily for the murder. He became a member of the Morello family and aligned his crime group with theirs through marriage into the Morello family, meaning a Morello sister. With the murder of mafioso Francesco Meli in December 1892, allegedly by [Antonio Morello](#), the Morellos usurped control of the [Brooklyn](#) dockyards and eventually parts of the Upper [Manhattan](#) and [Bronx](#) waterfronts. Continuing to support Saitta's Black Hand organization, the Morellos would later be suspected of the "[barrel murders](#)", supposedly murder victims of the Black Hand, which would be seen regularly throughout the decade.

With the death of Antonio Morello in 1898, leadership of the crime family fell to Giuseppe Morello (although Saitta was considered the overall leader of the Manhattan *mafiosi*). Arrested the following year for counterfeiting and sentenced to three years' imprisonment, Giuseppe, following his release in 1902, and Saitta began a major counterfeiting ring with Sicilian *mafioso* [Don Vito Cascio Ferro](#), printing \$5 dollar bills in [Sicily](#) and smuggling them into the [United States](#). Many of the later "[barrel murders](#)", particularly that of [Giuseppe "Joe" Catania Sr.](#) (whose body was found in July 1902), were thought to have been committed by the Morellos, who employed a large number of members of the counterfeiting operation.

On [April 13, 1903](#) the body of [Beneditto Madonia](#), brother-in-law to police informant [Giuseppe DiPrimo](#) (de Priemo), was found in a barrel after being brutally tortured. A [United States Secret Service](#) detective, who had been investigating the counterfeiting ring, traced the man to a restaurant where he was seen with Morello crime family Boss, Lupo Saitta along with associate and hitman, [Tomasso "The Ox" Petto](#). New York detective [Joseph Petrosino](#) later confirmed Madonia's identity after visiting DiPrimo at [Sing Sing Prison](#). A letter by Madonia seeking to leave the organization was found in a search of Madonia's house. With this evidence several *mafiosi* were arrested including Morello, Saitta, Petto, and restaurant owner [Pietro Inzarillo](#) as well as several other members. However the charges are later dropped after witnesses changed their statements.

Counterfeiting Scandal

[\[edit\]](#)

By the late 1900s, the Morello crime family had consolidated their hold on Upper Manhattan however on November 15, 1909 New York police raided a building in [Highland, New York](#) the Morello's were using as a front for their counterfeiting operation. After letters were found by Black Hand victims from [New Orleans](#), fifteen members of the Morello's, including [Giuseppe Morello](#) and [Ignazio "Lupo the Wolf" Saitta](#), were arrested. Recovering a large amount of both American and Canadian counterfeit bills, including Morello member [Pasqual Vasi](#) in possession of \$1,200 worth of counterfeit money, the printer agreed to testify against the Morello's.

Beginning on [January 26, 1910](#) the trial ended on [February 19](#) with all members involved convicted, including [Giuseppe Morello](#) and Lupo Saitta, who were sentenced to thirty and twenty-five years respectively at [Atlanta Federal Prison](#).

Mafia-Camorra War

[\[edit\]](#)

With [Giuseppe Morello](#)'s and Lupo Saitta's conviction, [Nicholas "Nick" Morello](#), with Vincenzo and Ciro Terranova, took control of the Morello crime family. At this time the Morellos' power was at its height, controlling Manhattan's criminal activities from [East Harlem](#) to [Greenwich Village](#). Soon after opening the Venezia Restaurant, the club became a popular hangout for the city's underworld.

Nick's efforts to unify the Italian criminal organizations of New York, particularly the Sicilian *Mafiosi* and the Neapolitan *Camorristi*, during the early 1910s were unsuccessful despite his best efforts.

The Morellos' main rival was [Don Pellegrino Morano](#) who controlled the Camorra gangs controlling Brooklyn. As violence continued between *Mafiosi* and *Camorristi*, the Morello crime family began to split, particularly after the 1914 and 1915 murders of crime family associates and East Harlem Camorristi, [Fortunato "Charles" Lamonti](#) and [Giosue Gallucci](#). The crime family split into several factions headed by their top members, [Giuseppe Masseria](#) and [Umberto "Rocco" Valenti](#), although there is



debate by crime writers and historians as to whether Rocco Valenti was a Sicilian *Mafiosi* and a member of the Morello crime family or Neapolitan *Camorristi* and a member of the **Morano crime family** and only allied to the Morello's.

During this time the Morellos had allied with *Don* **Giosue Gallucci**, a prominent East Harlem businessman and Camorrista with local political connections and the **Lamonti Brothers** who where also powerful East Harlem businessmen and Camorristi. **Gaetano "Thomas" Lamonti** and brother **Fortunato "Charles" Lamonti** were known as friends of the Morellos who owned a feed store down the street from the famous *Murder Stable* owned by **Ignazio Saietta**. After the 1914 murder of Lamonti brother Charles and the 1915 murder of Gallucci, the alliance between the Morello's and the East Harlem Camorristi ended as the Brooklyn Camorristi planned to eliminate the Mafiosi from Manhattan.

In early 1916 Camorra Boss **Pellegrino Morano**, with lieutenant **Vincenzo Paragallo**, began moving into the Morello crime family's territory. After six months of fighting, however, Morano offered a truce to end the stalemate. Mafia Boss, Nick Morello agreed as a meeting was arranged at a **Navy Street** café owned by Camorrista, **Alessandro Vollero**. However upon arriving, Morello was ambushed by five members of the Brooklyn Camorra group and killed along with bodyguard, **Charles Ubriaco** on **September 7, 1916**. While the loss of the Morello crime family's senior leader was a blow to the Mafia, Camorra Boss, **Pellegrino Morano** was quickly charged with Nick Morello's murder after two members of the Camorra group, **Tony Noto** and **Ralph Daniello**, contacted New York police implicating **Pellegrino Morano** and **Alessandro Vollero**, revealing the war between the Sicilian and Neapolitan gangs. Both Morano and Vollero, after being denied help from New York detective **Michael Mealli**, were convicted of murder and imprisoned, as were the remaining leaders of the Camorristi, effectively ending the Mafia-Camorra War.

A Crime Family Divided, The Morello-Masseria-Valenti Conflict

[edit]



The length of this article or section may adversely affect readability.

Please [discuss](#) this issue on the talk page, split the content into subarticles, and keep this page in a [summary style](#).

In the aftermath of the Mafia-Camorra war the Morello's were in control of East Harlem, parts of the Bronx and Brooklyn, New York, ensuring the dominance of the Sicilian mafiosi, as the remaining Camorra members were absorbed into the different Sicilian mafia families that had been formed since the late 1890s, early 1900s in New York organization by the end of 1917. The Terranova brothers, Vincent and Ciro took the place of their half brother Nick as leaders of the crime family and although Ciro Terranova was tried for the murders of Charles Lombardi and Joe DiMarco in 1918, the brothers remained in control of the Morello crime family as the case was later dismissed.

The organization remained divided between Morello crime family members, Joe Masseria and Rocco Valenti, however as Masseria began gaining power after his release from prison in 1916, serving 3 years for committing a burglary at a Bowery pawnshop and from then he rose to become one of the top members of the crime family, while Valenti had been a Brooklyn Camorra member who after the war joined the Morello crime family and quickly rose through the ranks to become a top crime family member by 1920. The Morellos and their crime family faced a civil war amongst themselves following the post Joe Morello-Lupo Saietta era. The internal conflict centered around two of the most powerful members of the crime family and their factions which battled for control of the Morello crime family during the early 1920s. The Masseria faction versus the Valenti faction was an internal war that was waged within the Morello crime family from 1920-22 and whether or not the Morello family was aligned with Masseria or Valenti is the question that poses a great dilemma for many crime writers, historians and mob watchers. There are many interested in this part of the Morello crime family's history who believe that either the Morello family was an ally to the new rising mafia power in New York, Joe

Masseria or they were aligned with Masseria's enemy, [Umberto "Rocco" Valenti](#) in order to stop Masseria from gaining control of the crime family and becoming the top mafia boss in New York. A universal fact within this era of the New York mafia is that Brooklyn mafia Boss, [Salvatore "Tata" D'Aquila](#) along with the support of Cleveland mafia Boss, [Joseph "Big Joe" Porello](#) had become the self proclaimed Boss of Bosses of the American mafia from the mid 1910's and was now looking to be officially anointed and took a great interest in the outcome of the Morello-Masseria-Valenti conflict. Now whether or not Tata D'Aquila had given his support to Joe Masseria in his bid to gain the leadership of the Morello crime family in an effort to rid themselves of alleged former Boss of Bosses, [Giuseppe Morello](#) is in question. If Salvatore D'Aquila gave his support to Joe Masseria it was believed that it was so that Masseria would then support D'Aquila's bid to officially gain the Boss of Bosses title, but Masseria had his own plans for the coveted title.

Crime writer David Leon Chandler's 1975 book, "Brothers in Blood:The Rise of the Criminal Brotherhoods" supports the theory that when alleged former boss of bosses, Giuseppe Morello, now called "Peter the Clutch Hand" was released from prison in 1920 he immediately began a campaign to recapture the leadership of the Morello crime family. From 1916, the Morello crime family had been under the leadership of Morello's half brothers the Terranovas, but was being coveted by mafia power, Joe Masseria and that by aligning himself with Rocco Valenti and Pittsburgh mafiosi, [Nicola "Cola" Gentile](#), Morello could eliminate Masseria and hold onto his crime family. Rocco Valenti and Nick Gentile had allegedly aligned themselves with each other in 1920 to oppose mafia boss, Tata D'Aquila in his bid to become the true boss of bosses and Morello apparently believed he could use the two mafiosi in his quest against Joe Masseria or so the theory goes. The only undisputed fact in the war is that Joe Masseria and Rocco Valenti battled each other from 1920-22 to claim the leadership of the Morello crime family, but what is highly disputed is the alliance of [Giuseppe "Peter the Clutch Hand" Morello](#) with Rocco Valenti or Joe Masseria? This is the main question that must be answered and crime writers, historians and mob watchers who support the theory that Giuseppe Morello was allied to Rocco Valenti are hard pressed to explain the factual alliance of Joe Masseria and the Terranova brothers, Vincent and Ciro throughout the time Giuseppe Morello is in prison from 1910-22 and the fact that their alliance continued during the conflict, pitting the Terranovas against Valenti. Whether Tata D'Aquila supports Joe Masseria or opposes him as others believe, the true realization of Joe Masseria's close alliance and business association to the Terranovas lead many who have researched the events occurring in the war to conclude that the Morellos and Terranovas were allied to Masseria against Rocco Valenti in his bid for the crime family leadership being that Giuseppe Morello would never oppose or for that matter kill his relatives and half brothers, the Terranovas to support Valenti. There are many factual and recorded events in the war that give us a clearer look at the participants and what their alleged alliances would have been once the events are examined.

The first mafioso to fall victim to the aspirations of Joe Masseria and Rocco Valenti was bootlegger and Valenti ally, [Salvatore Muaro](#) who was murdered by alleged Morello-Masseria gunmen on Christie St. December 29, 1920. The next person to be killed in the war that was directly connected to the Morello crime family was Terranova family uncle, [George Terranova](#) who was murdered allegedly by Valenti gunmen on January 27, 1921. Rocco Valenti then made a concrete move in the direction of winning the war and taking over the Morello crime family when Boss, Vincent Terranova was shot and killed in front of his home at 116th St. and 2nd Ave. by gunmen shooting from a moving car on May 8, 1922. With the death of Morello crime family boss, Vincent Terranova, Joe Masseria is seen as the successor for the crime family's leadership and is now known as 'Joe the Boss', this is one of the events that causes confusion for people and gives way to a theory that Masseria killed Terranova in order to become boss of the crime family. Others believe [Giuseppe "Joe the Boss" Masseria](#) acts immediately to avenge the death of Terranova by personally setting up an ambush for Rocco Valenti and his bodyguard, [Silva Tagliagamba](#) at the curbside liquor exchange near Grande and Mulberry Streets in Manhattan a short distance from police headquarters where bootleggers meet openly to exchange surplus liquor. Joe Masseria's plan to kill Valenti is considered sound due to the fact that Masseria underling, [Tommy](#)

Pennochio supervises the liquor exchange and will be able to assist Masseria and his gunmen in Valenti's ambush, but Rocco Valenti escapes Masseria's shooters, while Tagliagamba is mortally wounded and Masseria is apprehended by police fleeing the scene. Police are surprised to find Masseria has a gun permit issued by a New York city official, but Masseria is charged with Tagliagamba's murder, the case is never prosecuted.

On August 8, 1922, Joe Masseria is apparently ambushed by Rocco Valenti gunmen on 5th St. and 2nd Ave. near his home. Joe Masseria ducts into Heiney's Millinery where a Valenti gunman proceeds to shoot at Joe Masseria 4 times from a range of no more than 10 feet while Masseria ducks and dodges the bullets. The gunman and store clerk are amazed as store items and Masseria's straw hat are the only things hit by the bullets, the legend that Joe Masseria can dodge bullets is born. Joe Masseria executes a second effort to eliminate Rocco Valenti by duping him into believing he is scared for his life, wishes to retire and abdicate the Morello crime family leadership to Valenti. There is another theory by those who believe the Morello-Valenti alliance existed that Joe Masseria's second plan to eliminate Rocco Valenti included naming Peter Morello the boss of bosses and abdicate the crime family leadership to him. Either way the facts state that on August 11, 1922 at an Italian restaurant located at 233 East 12th St. Joe Masseria and Rocco Valenti have an alleged peace meeting to discuss the terms of Masseria's abdication. After they eat and the meeting is concluded Masseria leaves the restaurant first at which time Valenti realizes he has been set up and runs down the street for a taxi and is shot just as he reaches the taxi door. The alleged shooter of Rocco Valenti is Masseria underling, **Charlie "Lucky" Luciano**. The elimination of Valenti leaves **Giuseppe "Joe the Boss" Masseria** the top Italian crime boss in New York and in control of the newly named **Masseria crime family**. **Giuseppe "Peter the Clutch Hand" Morello** becomes the crime family's top advisor and a close aide to Masseria, thus strengthening the theory that Morello was allied to Masseria.

Bosses of the Morello Crime Family [edit]

- 1892–1898 — **Antonio Morello** (1854–1898) (murdered summer of 1898)
- 1898–1909 — **Giuseppe Morello** (1870–1930) and **Ignazio "Lupo/The Wolf" Saitta** (1877–1947) (Morello in East Harlem, Saitta in Little Italy, many considered Morello the bosses of bosses at this time, both jailed on counterfeiting charges in 1909)
- 1910–1916 — **Nicholas "Nick" Morello** (1866–1916) (killed in Mafia-Camorra war September 7, 1916)
- 1916–1920 — **Vincenzo "Vincent" Terranova** (1889–1922) and **Ciro "The Artichoke King" Terranova** (1889–1938) (Ciro in Manhattan/Bronx, Vincent in Brooklyn, many considered Vincent boss and Ciro as underboss, Vincent was killed in Morello-Masseria-Valenti conflict May 8, 1922)
- 1920–1922 — **Giuseppe "Peter the Clutch Hand" Morello** (1880–1930) (paroled in 1920, abdicated power in 1922 to Joe Masseria who made Morello his top adviser. Morello was later killed in the Castellammarese War on August 15, 1930 allegedly by Maranzano-Bonventre-Bonanno faction members and their allies)

References [edit]

- Asbury, Herbert**. *The Gangs of New York*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1928. **ISBN 1-56025-275-8**
- Sifakis, Carl. *The Mafia Encyclopedia*. New York: Da Capo Press, 2005. **ISBN 0-8160-5694-3**

External links [edit]

- GangRule.com - The Morello Gang: Early Years (1900-1910)**

Categories: [Italian-American crime families](#) | [Mafia-Camorra war](#)

[article](#) | [discussion](#) | [edit this page](#) | [history](#)

Barrel murder

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

A barrel murder was a method of execution used by early American **mafiosi** since the 1870s,^[1] although the earlier recorded barrel murders in New York were reported in 1895^[2] and 1900.^[3]

The victims, usually Italian immigrants, would be found stuffed inside a barrel after being shot, stabbed, or strangled to death, and left on a random street corner, back alley, or shipped to a nonexistent address in another city. First used by the Sicilian **Provenzano crime family** in **New Orleans** and the **Morello crime family** in **New York**, the Barrel Murders eventually alerted authorities of the existence of the Mafia leading to the later investigation by New Orleans police chief **David C. Hennessy** whose eventual assassination by Sicilian mafiosi in 1890 would expose organized crime in the **United States**. New York detective **Joseph Petrosino**'s early investigations into the New York barrel murders would also lead to a crackdown against the Black Hand and the Morellos until his assassination in 1909. The Morellos, suspected of over 100 murders, continued to use the barrel murder for over thirty years until eventually ceasing after the (now well-publicized) murders, which obtained unwanted attention from local authorities, as did the practice of other non-Italian criminals drawing police suspicion away from themselves onto the Morellos and other Italian mafiosi.

Recent use [edit]

The method was later used in **Johnny Roselli**'s death when he was found in a 55-gallon oil drum off the coast of **Florida** in 1976 although it is argued, given Roselli's involvement with the CIA, whether this was made to look like Mafia or CIA related assassination.

Resources [edit]

- ↑ Sifakis, Carl. *The Mafia Encyclopedia: Second Edition*, New York, Checkmark Books, 1999. (pg. 33)
- ↑ "**History of the Mafia** " (in Russian). Retrieved on **2007-05-06**.
- ↑ Hunt, Thomas (2005). "**Mafia Chronology: Section II (1900-1929)** ". The American "Mafia". Retrieved on **2007-05-06**.

External links [edit]

- GangRule.com - The Barrel Murder (1903)**

Categories: [American Mafia events](#) | [Organized crime terminology](#)

navigation

- [Main page](#)
- [Contents](#)
- [Featured content](#)
- [Current events](#)
- [Random article](#)

search

interaction

- [About Wikipedia](#)
- [Community portal](#)
- [Recent changes](#)
- [Contact Wikipedia](#)
- [Donate to Wikipedia](#)
- [Help](#)

toolbox

- [What links here](#)
- [Related changes](#)
- [Upload file](#)
- [Special pages](#)
- [Printable version](#)
- [Permanent link](#)
- [Cite this page](#)

Mafia-Camorra War

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Jump to: [navigation](#), [search](#)

The Mafia-Camorra War was a gang war in New York City during the World War I era. One side was the [Sicilian Morello crime family](#), the other side was [Camorra](#), the [Neapolitan Navy Street gang](#), and the [Coney Island gang](#). The gang war lasted from [1914](#) through [1917](#) and the trials of [1918](#).

Contents

[[hide](#)]

- [1 Protagonists](#)
- [2 Morello power play](#)
- [3 The Morello plot](#)
- [4 The DeMarco hit](#)
- [5 The Camorra plot](#)
- [6 The Morello hit](#)
- [7 Destruction of the Camorra](#)
- [8 Trials](#)
- [9 Members of each faction](#)
- [10 External links](#)

[[edit](#)] Protagonists

The Morello gang, run by [Nicholas Morello](#), controlled [Harlem](#) and most of northern [Manhattan](#). Morello and his allies were part of the traditional Sicilian Mafia.

The Camorra organization, run by Andrea Ricci, was a powerful underworld force in Brooklyn. Unlike the Mafia, the Camorra drew its recruits from immigrants from the Naples region of Italy. The Camorra organization's close allies included the Navy Street and Coney Island gangs of Brooklyn, both of which were Neopolitan in origin. Leopoldo Lauritano and Allesandro Vollero headed the Navy Street Gang, and Pelligrino Morano was boss of the [Coney Island](#) Gang.

Before this conflict start, relations between the two sides were relatively amicable; in fact, each year the Morellos would attend a 'smoker' held by Camorra boss Ricci in Brooklyn. However, things were soon to change.

[[edit](#)] Morello power play

As with many gang conflicts, the Mafia-Camorra war started due to greed; the Morello ambition to control gambling in Manhattan. The Morello's first target was the Del Gaudio brothers, who controlled gambling operations in [East Harlem](#). The Morellos killed [Nicolo Del Gaudio](#) and cowed his brother [Gaetano](#).

Their next target, [Joseph DeMarco](#), would be much harder to subdue. DeMarco ran a restaurant and several

gambling establishments on [Mulberry Street](#) in Lower Manhattan. Having faced the Morellos before, DeMarco had survived two assassination attempts and had unsuccessfully tried to murder Nicholas Morello on one occasion. The Morello family decided to seek help from the Navy Street and Coney Island gangs to subdue DeMarco.

[\[edit\]](#) The Morello plot

On June 24th 1916, the Morellos met with the Navy Street and Coney Island gangs in Coney Island. The reason for the meeting was to parcel out control of all illegal activities in New York, including gambling, [drugs](#), and [extortion](#). At the meeting, Nick Morello and his associate, [Steve LaSalle](#), proposed killing DeMarco . The two Brooklyn gangs agreed and Lauritano, the Navy Street boss, set up a meeting at his Brooklyn cafe to plan the hit.

Three weeks later, Nick Morello and his associates Steve LaSalle, [Ciro "The Artichoke King" Terranova](#), and [Giuseppe Verizzano](#) met the Brooklyn gang members at Lauritano's cafe. The main problem in staging an attack on DeMarco was that he knew all Morellos and wouldn't let them get near him. However, Verizzano was a close friend of DeMarco's; he was therefore assigned to set up the trap. The plan was for Verizzano to smuggle a Navy Street hitman into DeMarco's gambling den and point out DeMarco to the assassin, who would then kill him.

[\[edit\]](#) The DeMarco hit

The first attempt at killing DeMarco failed when Navy Street hitman [John Fetto](#) arrived late at the gambling den; by that point, DeMarco had already left. Complicating the planning for a second attempt, the conspirators found out that a friend of DeMarco, [Joe "Chuck" Nazzaro](#) would accompany DeMarco that afternoon. To increase their chances of success, John Esposito was added to the hit team. That afternoon, Esposito and Fetto, made their way to a saloon on Elizabeth St to await a signal from Verizzano. At around five o'clock, Verizzano arrived at the saloon and notified the gunmen that Demarco had arrived at the gambling den. Verizzano and the two hitmen left the saloon and made their way to the entrance of the gambling den.

Verizzano, Esposito, and Fetto arrived at the entrance to DeMarco's gambling hall. [Nick Sassi](#), a DeMarco employee who was a Navy Street sympathizer, got the three men past the doorman and inside the hall. The men walked to the back bedroom where the card games were going on. Inside the back room, DeMarco, [Charles Lombardi](#), other gangsters, and numerous spectators were watching the card game. To identify the target for Esposito and Fetto, Verizzano sat down opposite DeMarco. Outside the room, Sassi and [Rocco Valente](#) from Navy St were standing watch to make sure everyone had a clear escape route.

Suddenly, Esposito pulled out his gun and fatally shot Lombardi; the nervous gunman had misread the signals from Verizzano and thought he was shooting DeMarco. Working quickly, Verizzano managed to kill DeMarco himself. The Navy Street gunmen then crawled out the bedroom window onto Oliver Street and safely made their escape. That evening Nick and Vincent Morello, LaSalle, Terranova and Verizzano all traveled to the Navy Street Gang headquarters. They advised Lauritano that Joe DeMarco was indeed dead; they gave Lauritano \$50 to pass on to his gunmen.

[\[edit\]](#) The Camorra plot

With the death of Joe DeMarco, the Morello organization was able to open up Lower Manhattan to their gambling operations. However, to the Morello's chagrin, the Camorra organization also grabbed the opportunity and opened a couple of their own gambling houses in Lower Manhattan. Since the Morello goal had been a monopoly on gambling in the area, the stage was set for conflict.

On the other side of the East River, the Neopolitan gangs were also getting ambitious. Allessandro Vollero, a top Navy Street leader, had never been happy with cooperating with the Morellos on the DeMarco hit. He now decided to break their alliance. A meeting was held in [Philadelphia](#) between Navy Gang representatives and the Camorra leadership about hitting the Morellos and taking complete control of Manhattan. After discussing it with Camorra boss Ricci the two groups agreed to an alliance.

The Navy Gang and the Camorra developed a plan to lure the leaders of the Morello gang to another meeting in Brooklyn, only to ambush and murder them.

[\[edit\]](#) The Morello hit

On [September 7, 1916](#) Nick Morello and associate [Charles Ubriaco](#) traveled downtown to meet with the Navy Street Gang. Once they arrived, they were served drinks. After a while, Morello and Ubriaco were told that the Navy Street people were waiting for them instead at a coffee house. On their way to the coffee house, they were ambushed. Nick Morello was shot by [Tom Pagano](#) and Charlie Ubriaco was shot by [Thomas Carillo](#) and Lefty Esposito. Morello and Carillo died at the scene.

When the police arrived, they searched Morello's body; they found a bank book for NY Produce Exchange Bank, Harlem with a balance of \$1,865. The police later asked Ciro Terranova to come in and identify his brother's body. The police arrested Vollero and put him in a lineup, but released him 19 days later for lack of evidence.

[\[edit\]](#) Destruction of the Camorra

Giuseppe Verrazano, who was with the Morellos wanted to open up another gambling house, this was not liked by the Navy St. so a plot to kill him was began. Verrazano spotted a Navy St. member and tried to kill him, perhaps to get the hit off of him, but he was spotted and was forced to flee. Many [assassinations](#) and attempts would happen after this making neither side a safe place to be. Since the Camorra couldn't kill the new leaders they would have to do it indirectly. The Camorra would try to take over the [artichoke](#) business (that's the business that Ciro controlled). Their threats didn't work not only against artichokes, but coal and ice too, just to name a couple. Many members would be killed in this war like Salvatore DeMarco, George Esposito, Gaetano Del Gaudio, Anthony 'The Shoemaker' Paretti, Joseph 'Chuck' Nazzaro. They were caught up in the war, proving no matter what side you were on, you could die at any second. One man would play the biggest part in the victory of the mafia. That man would be [Ralph 'The Barber' Daniello](#) who would testify against Navy St. after his requests to help him and his family when he went to jail. He told everything he knew from murders to the rackets. [Convictions](#) and [indictments](#) were pouring in from Navy St. from past crimes like the murder of DeMarco. The top was showing only the mafia now.

[\[edit\]](#) Trials

The war was over and that meant changes were going to take place. The biggest change, not having the camorra around.

Rocco Valenti was arrested in January for relations in the DeMarco / Lombardi killing. He was jailed for ten months, before being discharged in November 1918. He appeared later in court to testify against Charles Giordano in March 1919. Allessandro Vollero, was tried for [first degree murder](#) in the case of Nicholas Morello and Charles Ubriaco. Ralph Daniello testified against Vollero, and stated the gang paid money to a Detective named Michael Mealli. Mealli was reduced in rank getting assigned to patrol duty. Following this, Judge Kapper was taken ill on February 18th, causing a mistrial to be declared. Vollero was retried on March 4th and was sentenced to life at [Sing Sing](#). Pelligrino Morano, leader of the Coney Island faction, was convicted of murder in the second degree. He was sentenced 20 to life at Sing Sing. [Alphonso Sgroia](#), a Navy Street gang member, was sentenced on June 17th 1918, he received twelve years in [Dannemora](#) for

the Nick Morello case. Sgroia would testify against his fellow assailants, he would receive a shorter prison sentence and deportation to [Italy](#). Justice for Morello's and Ubriaco's death didn't stop there. John Esposito and Antonio Notaro were sentenced in June 1918, from 6 to 10 years each for their participation in the murder. Ciro Terranova was tried for [Complicity](#) in June 1918, in connection with the DeMarco/Lombardi killing. Johnny Esposito, the killer of Lombardi tried to testify against Terranova, but once it was proved that they were in the same gang, Ciro was [acquitted](#) due to lack of corroboration. Ralph Daniello's sentence was suspended due to the testimony he had given. An assault which cost him 5 years in Coney Island cut short his freedom. After his release in 1925 he was found shot near [Metuchen, New Jersey](#). [Frank Fevrola](#) was found guilty by Judge Tompkins for the murder of "Chuck" Nazzaro in 1917. Fevrola was sentenced to the death house at Sing Sing, the testimony was given by someone who may have been closer to him than anyone, his wife. However on April 14th, 1922, a notice was served on DA Weeks, that a motion would be made to grant a retrial on the case of Fevrola. All previous statements were withdrawn by his wife, her explanation was that the police had threatened and bribed her to testify. The retrial was opposed by mocking the [affidavit](#) of Tessie Fevrola. Tompkins denied any form of retrial for Fevrola. A last minute attempt to save Fevrola was made by lawyer Thomas O'Neil on May 29, 1923. With seven hours till execution Tompkins was granted a retrial, sparing him until October 7th. His death sentence was commuted eventually, meaning his sentence became less severe. Aniellio Paretti was lucky because all charges, which was the death of Nazzaro, against him were dropped. He was released from Sing Sing in 1923, after he was retrialed. Nick Morello's death still wasn't done being avenged by the law. Anthony Paretti was sentenced to Sing Sing death house for his part in the slaying. Paretti originally fled to Italy to escape capture. He returned to New York in March, 1926, thinking that most of the witnesses against him would be gone. Anthony wouldn't be as lucky as his brother, Aniellio, he was convicted for first degree murder. Leading up to the execution security was enhanced from 16 hours a day to 24 hours a day. He was pressuring politicians to throw out the death penalty but, wasn't granted. He was electracuted on February 17, 1927 at the age of 35. One of his last visitors was future mafia boss, [Vito Genovese](#).

[\[edit\]](#) Members of each faction

Mafia- Nicholas Morello, Ciro Terranova, Ignazio Saietta, Vincent Terranova, Charles Ubriaco, Thomas Lomonte, Fortunato Lomonte.

Camorra- Leopoldo Lauritano, Allesandro Vollero, Pelligrino Morano, Alphonso Sgroia, Frank Fevrola, Antonio Paretti, Aniellio Paretti, Raffaele Daniello, Johnny Esposito.

Other- Giuseppe DeMarco, Generosi Nazzaro.

[\[edit\]](#) External links

- [GangRule](#)

Retrieved from "http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mafia-Camorra_War"

Categories: [Mafia-Camorra war](#)

Views

- [Article](#)
- [Discussion](#)
- [Edit this page](#)
- [History](#)

Personal tools

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Jump to: [navigation](#), [search](#)

The **Castellammarese War** ([1929](#) - [1931](#)) was a bloody power struggle for control of the [Italian-American mafia](#) between two factions. The war ended with [Salvatore Maranzano](#), head of the Castellammarese faction, becoming *capo di tutti capi* (Boss of All Bosses) for the entire mafia. After he was killed, "[the Commission](#)" of five mafia families of equal stature was established.

[hide]

- ## [[edit](#)] The Protagonists

The name *Castellammarese* refers to immigrants from the town of [Castellammare del Golfo](#) in Western [Sicily](#). In Sicily, these people were controlled by the powerful [Sicilian](#) mafioso [Don Vito Cascio Ferro](#). In the U.S., the Castellammarese leader was [Salvatore Maranzano](#), a New York gangster. The Castellammarese mobsters in the U.S. included [Joseph "Joe Bananas" Bonanno](#), [Stefano "The Undertaker" Magaddino](#), [Joseph Profaci](#), and [Joe Aiello](#). This was one of the two factions in this gang war.

The second faction came from other parts of [Sicily](#) and the [Calabria](#) and [Campania](#) regions of [Southern Italy](#). Many members of this faction originated from [Naples](#). Their leader was another New York mob leader, [Joe "The Boss" Masseria](#). Masseria's faction included [Alphonse Capone](#), [Charles "Lucky" Luciano](#), [Albert "Mad Hatter" Anastasia](#), [Vito Genovese](#), [Alfred Mineo](#) (Alfredo Manfredi), [Willie Moretti](#), [Joe Adonis](#), and [Frank Costello](#).

Outwardly, the Castellammarese War was between the forces of Masseria and Maranzano. In reality, it was a generational conflict between the old guard Sicilian leadership, fondly known as the "[Mustache Petes](#)" for their long mustaches and old-world ways, and the "Young Turks", a younger and more diverse Italian group who wanted to work more with non-Italians. Tensions between the two factions were readily evident as far back as [1928](#), with one side frequently [hijacking](#) the other's [alcohol](#) trucks (alcohol production was then illegal in the [United States](#) due to [Prohibition](#)). However, both factions were fluid; many gangsters switched sides or killed their own allies during this war.

[\[edit\]](#) The First Shot

It is hard to tell when the warfare actually started. In February 1930, Masseria supposedly ordered the death of [Gaspar Milazzo](#), a Castellammarese native who was the president of [Detroit](#)'s chapter of [Unione Siciliane](#). Masseria was reportedly humiliated by Milazzo's refusal to support him in an Unione Siciliane dispute involving the [Chicago Outfit](#) and [Al Capone](#).

However, according to most sources, the opening salvo in the war was fired within the Masseria faction. On [February 26, 1930](#), Masseria ordered the murder of an ally, [Gaetano Reina](#) (whose daughter Carmela -- often referred to incorrectly as Mildred due to her nickname, Millie -- would marry [Joe Valachi](#) two years later). Masseria ordered the hit and gave the job to a young [Vito Genovese](#), who killed Reina with a shotgun. Masseria's intent was to protect his secret allies [Tommy Gagliano](#), [Tommy Lucchese](#), and [Dominic Petrilli](#) (known as "The Gap"); however, his treachery would come back to haunt him, as the Reina family then threw its support to Maranzano.

[\[edit\]](#) Trading Blows

On [August 15, 1930](#), Castellammarese loyalists executed a key Masseria enforcer, [Pietro Morello](#), at Morello's [East Harlem](#) office (a visitor, Giuseppe Pariano, was also killed). Two weeks later, Masseria suffered another blow. After Reina's murder, Masseria had appointed [Joseph Pinzolo](#) to take over the ice-distribution racket. However, on [September 9, 1930](#), the Reina family shot and killed Pinzolo at a [Times Square](#) office rented by Lucchese. After these two murders, the Reina crew formally joined forces with the Castellammarese.

Masseria soon struck back. On [October 23, 1930](#), Castellammarese ally Joe Aiello, president of the Chicago Unione Siciliane, was murdered in [Chicago](#). At the time, it was widely assumed that Capone, another Castellammarese ally, had killed Aiello as part of a bitter power struggle in Chicago. However, Luciano later admitted that Masseria ordered the Aiello hit, which was performed by Masseria ally Alfred Mineo.

[\[edit\]](#) The Tide Turns

Following the murder of Aiello, the tide of war rapidly turned in favor of the Castellammarese. On [November 5, 1930](#) Mineo and a key member of Masseria's gang, [Steve Ferrigno](#), were murdered. At this point, members of Masseria's gang began defecting to Maranzano, rendering the original battle lines of the conflict (Castellammarese versus non-Castellammarese) meaningless. On [February 3, 1931](#), another important Masseria lieutenant, [Joseph Catania](#), was gunned down, dying two days later.

Given the worsened situation, Masseria allies Luciano and Genovese started communicating with Castellammarese leader Maranzano. The two men agreed to betray Masseria if Maranzano would end the war. On [April 15, 1931](#), Masseria was killed while eating dinner at Nuova Villa Tammaro, a [Coney Island](#) restaurant in [Brooklyn](#). The hitters were [Albert Anastasia](#), [Joe Adonis](#), [Vito Genovese](#), and [Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel](#); [Ciro "The Artichoke King" Terranova](#) drove the getaway car, but legend has it that he was too shaken up to drive away and had to be shoved out of the driver's seat by Siegel.

[\[edit\]](#) The New Mafia Structure

With the death of Masseria, the war was over. The winners, at least on paper, were Maranzano and the traditional Castellammarese faction. Now Maranzano took some significant actions to avoid more bloody and self-destructive gang wars. Many of these changes are still in effect today.

Except for [New York City](#), the major urban areas in the [Northeast](#) and [Midwest](#) were organized into one family per city; due to the sheer size of organized crime in New York, it was organized into five separate families. The bosses of the Five Families of New York were to be Luciano, Profaci, Gagliano, Bonanno, and [Vincent Mangano](#). All however would owe allegiance and tribute to Maranzano. The Castellammarese, such as Profaci and Bonanno, were divided among the New York crime families and ceased to exist as a separate faction. Maranzano set himself above, and apart from, all the U.S. crime families by creating an additional position for himself--[capo di tutti capi](#) or "boss of all bosses."

Each crime *family* unit was to be headed by a *boss*, who was assisted by an [underboss](#) (the third-ranking position of [consigliere](#), was added somewhat later). Below the underboss, the family was divided into crews, each headed by a [caporegime](#), or capo, and staffed by *soldiers*. The soldiers would often be assisted by associates-not-yet-members (or as they became known later, "wise guys"). Associates might also include non-Italians who worked with the family.

[\[edit\]](#) Death of Maranzano

Unfortunately for Maranzano, his reign as capo di tutti capi was short-lived. On [September 10, 1931](#) Maranzano was shot and stabbed to death in his [Manhattan](#) office by a team of Jewish triggermen recruited by [Meyer Lansky](#), a team which included [Samuel "Red" Levine](#) and [Bo Weinberg](#).

In the end, both of the traditional factions in the New York Mafia lost the war. The real winners were the younger and more ruthless generation of mobsters, headed by Luciano. With their ascension to power, organized crime was poised to expand into a truly national and multi-ethnic combination.

[\[edit\]](#) See also

- [History of the mafia](#)

[\[edit\]](#) External links

- [American Mafioso: The Castellammarese War](#)

Atlantic City Conference

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Jump to: [navigation](#), [search](#)



This article needs additional [citations](#) for [verification](#).

Please help [improve this article](#) by adding [reliable references](#). Unsourced material may be [challenged](#) and removed. *(July 2007)*

The **Atlantic City Conference** of 1929 is considered by most crime historians as the earliest organized crime summit held in the United States and held a major impact on the future direction of the underworld, it held more importance and significance than the Havana Conference of 1946 and the Appalachian meeting of 1957, representing the first concrete move toward a "[National Crime Syndicate](#)".^[1] Some historians such as T. J. English believe that it was by no means representative of the ethnic make-up of the country's criminal element, being that the delegations consisted of mostly Italian and Jewish crime leaders, with only 2 Irish criminals in attendance, one being the body guard of [Al Capone](#) and the other a dominant force in bootlegging activities who chose voluntary retirement to Little Rock, Arkansas, at the end of Prohibition. With the lack of a substantial Irish delegation, one might conclude that this could have been the beginning of underworld domination by the Italian and Jewish leaders. The Irish still possessed an influential presence in America's criminal and political worlds and had a number of dominant crime leaders in New York, Boston and Philadelphia that were not invited and eliminated soon afterward, leading some to believe it was decided the Irish were to be left on the fringes of the underworld.^[2] Bootlegging was the most lucrative criminal activity in the North American underworld from the advent of Prohibition in 1920 until its end in 1932. [Arnold Rothstein](#), [Charles "Lucky" Luciano](#), [John "The Fox" Torrio](#), [Meyer Lansky](#), [Frank Costello](#) and [Alphonse "Al Scarface" Capone](#) were some of the most prominent mobsters and bootleggers throughout the United States during the Prohibition era. The leaders or *Bosses* at the conference allegedly discussed, among other issues, the violent bootleg wars in [New York](#) and [Chicago](#), the systematic elimination of various Irish-American gangsters presently dominating underworld activities and influencing politics in the largest cities across the United States, diversification and investment into legal liquor ventures, the expansion of illegal operations to offset profit loss from the probable repeal of Prohibition, but most importantly the crime leaders came together for the reorganization and consolidation of the underworld into a "[National Crime Syndicate](#)".

Contents

[[hide](#)]

- [1 The Noble Experiment](#)
- [2 Crime Begins to Organize](#)
- [3 The Brain and the King of Rumrunners](#)
- [4 War or Peace](#)
- [5 The Leaders Begin to Re-Organize](#)
- [6 The Conference](#)
- [7 The Future of Organized Crime](#)
- [8 Atlantic City Delegates](#)
 - [8.1 Problems identifying attendants](#)
- [9 References](#)
- [10 External links](#)

[\[edit\]](#) The Noble Experiment

The United States government had the 18th Amendment to the Constitution ratified on [January 16, 1919](#) and passed the [Volstead Act](#) on [October 28, 1919](#) thus making America a "Dry Nation". Prohibition or the "Noble Experiment", as it came to be called began on [January 16, 1920](#).

With the advent of the Prohibition in 1920, ethnic gangs, businessmen and every day citizens from the big cities such as New York and Chicago to the small rural communities across the United States became involved in [rumrunning](#) to obtain quick wealth and power. Prohibition was also the beginning of great wealth, power and political influence for the crime groups and made it possible to begin planning an eventual move to organize crime on a national level. United States President, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, ratifies the 21st Amendment to the Constitution on [December 5, 1933](#), repealing Prohibition. The manufacture, sale and possession of alcoholic beverages is no longer illegal and the underworld continues to reorganize their illegal and legal operations to make up for the loss of profits experienced when Prohibition was repealed. For years prior to the end of Prohibition, some of the most influential crime leaders from across the United States looked to organization among the gangs as the future of crime in America, leading some crime historians believing that organized crime truly began to establish itself at a boardwalk meeting in Atlantic City, 1929.

[\[edit\]](#) Crime Begins to Organize

The same large and politically connected gangs in New York, Philadelphia, Cleveland, Boston, Detroit and Chicago that controlled gambling, prostitution, extortion, thefts and narcotics since the early to mid-1800s, now controlled bootlegging operations across America in the 1920s. These recently organized and powerful criminal organizations began from the ethnic street gangs who committed violent crimes, provided illegal goods and services to the community and acted as enforcers for the political machines of the big cities and towns. The mainly Irish, Jewish, Italian and Polish immigrants that had begun to organize themselves at after World War I, continued their criminal activities with the start of Prohibition and began to meet the great demand for beer and liquor that came from citizens, speakeasies and blind pigs that sprang up across America overnight.

The big city gangs of the United States had always maintained a degree of dominance in the underworld and when Prohibition came along the [Irish](#), [Jewish](#) and [Italian](#) gangs began to cooperate amongst themselves to a degree and became the most powerful criminal organizations in 1920s America. They dominated the Prohibition era rackets all along the east coast, midwest and southern United States. When Prohibition began, the Irish racketeers in [New York](#), [Massachusetts](#) and [Chicago](#) were still a dominant force in the underworld, especially in New York being that [Tammany Hall](#) and the city's political wards were controlled by a predominantly Irish group of politicians. The Jewish gangs had always been a powerful force in the nation's underworld and were a very close second to the Irish in power, due to their numbers and business sense. The Italian gangs were starting to assert their authority and influence in the underworld through their strong numbers and willingness to use violence. During Prohibition there were 2 types of bootleggers: beer and alcohol manufacturers who operated breweries and distilleries and the importers who smuggled brand name liquor into the United States from Canada and Europe by boat and plane. At the start of Prohibition there were 2 big Bosses who controlled beer breweries and all brand name liquor imports while the ethnic gangs controlled most of the home alcohol distilleries, some beer brewing and the distribution of most beer and liquor in the cities and towns. Jewish crime Boss Arnold "The Brain" Rothstein, along with Irish Boss [William "Big Bill" Dwyer](#) controlled the majority of high quality, brand name liquor smuggled in from Canada and Europe, all along the East coast from the areas of New York and New Jersey. The liquor distribution was handled by their lieutenants and sold to the ethnic gangs that they did business with, who in turn supplied readily available customers such as [speakeasies](#) and blind pigs.

[\[edit\]](#) The Brain and the King of Rumrunners

[Arnold "The Brain" Rothstein](#) was a Jewish crime leader and professional gambler who came from a well to do family in New York. His father, [Abraham "Abe the Just" Rothstein](#) was well known in the Jewish community and successful garment center businessman, who made sure his son Arnold was well educated in school and in the Jewish faith. [Arnold Rothstein](#) had very important connections to high level law enforcement officials, judges and politicians in New York City's Tammany Hall. Rothstein was the middleman between the political world of Tammany Hall and the underworld. He corrupted judges and obtained police protection for his various criminal operations including, gambling, bookmaking, loansharking, narcotics and garment center rackets. With the beginning of [Prohibition](#) Rothstein seized the opportunity to use his wealth and connections. He financed large scale liquor importation operations from Europe and Canada, making the most of his prominent associations such as the Bronfman family of Canada. He employed and mentored underworld members and future Bosses such as [Meyer Lansky](#), [Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel](#), [Charles "Lucky" Luciano](#), [Frank Costello](#), [Dutch Schultz](#), [Irving "Waxey Gordon" Wexler](#) and [Jack "Legs" Diamond](#), having them oversee all of his rackets and liquor smuggling operations. During Prohibition, Rothstein stayed in the shadows while his lieutenants oversaw distribution of the smuggled liquor to customers, bordellos, speakeasies and blind pigs all across the East Coast. Arnold Rothstein along with his business partner [John "The Fox" Torrio](#) was one of the first underworld Bosses to see the potential of organizing crime on a national level and may have been the most important criminal of his era. He was shot on [November 4, 1928](#) at the Park Central Hotel and later died. Underworld folklore states that he was shot for welshing on a gambling debt, but most crime historians believe that his garment center rackets, along with his lucrative heroin smuggling operations were desired by the newest underworld powers, [Charles "Lucky" Luciano](#) and [Louis "Lepke" Buchalter](#).

[William "Big Bill" Dwyer](#) was an Irish crime Boss, born and raised in New York's [Hell's Kitchen](#), who became a stevedore and union thug on Manhattan's docks. When Prohibition came into effect he was in a position to use his connections to boat captains to import liquor from Europe, while using his dock connections to garages and trucks to store and transport the liquor. By the end of his first year in the bootlegging business he had enough wealth to buy his own boats and political protection.

Bill Dwyer bought protection for his operations from 11th Assembly District leader [James "Jimmy" Hines](#), who became a powerful middleman between [Tammany Hall](#) and the underworld, protecting Bill Dwyer's and many other illegal operations in New York. In 1923, [William "Big Bill" Dwyer](#) went into partnership with several other Irish Bosses, bootleggers and rumrunners of the Prohibition era, including feared Hell's Kitchen Boss, [Owney "The Killer" Madden](#), Long Island Boss [Larry Fay](#) and Providence, Rhode Island, Boss [Daniel "Danny" Walsh](#) to form one of the underworld's biggest liquor smuggling and distribution operations, the Combine. In 1924, Bill Dwyer and Owney Madden purchased the Phoenix Cereal Beverage Company to begin brewing beer, while Larry Fay purchased a number of popular nightclubs and speakeasies that would become their primary outlets for the beer they manufactured and the bootlegged rum, scotch, vodka and champagne they smuggled into the country. Partner Danny Walsh controlled the Combine's liquor smuggling and distribution operations along the Rhode Island coast. Soon the Irish-led Combine was running smoothly, money was flowing, allowing Dwyer and Madden to expand and diversify their business contacts to include Jewish gangsters like Arnold Rothstein, Meyer Lansky, Ben Siegel, Dutch Schultz, Waxey Gordon, along with Italians [Charles "Lucky" Luciano](#), [Frank Costello](#), [Joe Adonis](#) and [Joseph Bonanno](#). The old guard or "[Mustache Petes](#)" allowed chosen underlings to oversee joint business ventures with other ethnic gangs and groups such as the Combine only when it was too lucrative to pass up. Traditionally the old Italian Bosses had forbidden their groups and their members to do business outside the Italian underworld, but the next generation of gangsters led by Charlie "Lucky" Luciano, Frank Costello, Albert Anastasia, Joe Adonis and Joe Bonanno were open to the possibilities. The Combine even did business with leading black racketeers and numbers Bosses in Harlem, such as Madame [Stephanie "The Queen" St. Clair](#) and her lieutenant [Ellsworth "Bumpy" Johnson](#).

In 1926, William "Big Bill" Dwyer was convicted of trying to bribe a coast guard official and sentenced to 2 years in prison. Italian Boss and Dwyer ally, Francesco Castiglia, who changed his name to Frank Costello once he became involved with the Irish Combine, stepped up to take control of Bill Dwyer's operations, Costello was helped by Dwyer associate, the Irish Boss of Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, [Charles "Vannie" Higgins](#), who was said to be second only to Bill Dwyer in the rumrunning business. Vannie Higgins was called "Brooklyn's Last Irish Boss" and controlled the Brooklyn waterfront and its Irish stevedores during Prohibition. He had a small fleet of speedboats and airplanes he used to control the rumrunning and liquor

smuggling on the Long Island coast. Bill Dwyer was let out for good behavior in 1927 after serving 13 months and slowly withdrew from the bootlegging business and underworld, seeing the writing on the wall and realizing that the next generation of Italian and Jewish gangsters were starting to assert their authority on the streets through sheer violence. Dwyer knew the Italian and Jewish crime leaders would eventually take control of all underworld rackets and operations. He quietly retired and put his money into legitimate gambling such as casinos and racetracks, by 1930 he was fully retired from underworld activity and lived with his wife and five children in Belle Harbor, Queens, New York. Eventually Dwyer owned professional sports franchises in Hockey and Football.

[[edit](#)] War or Peace

Since the first gangs were formed in the early 1820s, the Irish have held a level of power and leadership in the underworld over other ethnic gangs by controlling the two most powerful worlds the big cities have to offer, the criminal and political worlds. The multitudes of Irish immigrants that flocked to America were the first to control underworld activities in the big cities across the United States. The most violent and ruthless street gangs have battled and killed each other for years, the most famous of these gangs being those who fought battles to lay claim over a certain area of New York. This area of Manhattan, once comprised of Mulberry, Anthony, Cross, Orange and Little Water Streets, made up the famous *Five Points*, between Broadway and the Bowery. Gangs such as the [Forty Thieves](#), [Plug Uglies](#), [Patsy Conroys](#), [Dead Rabbits](#) and [Bowery Boys](#), fought and killed each other over the criminal spoils and territory of the Five Points. By the 1870s, New York and the Five Points experienced a wave of Italian and Jewish immigrants, whose criminals quickly organized themselves into two of New York's most powerful ethnic gangs, each with a membership topping 1500 soldiers. These two gangs battled each other for underworld dominance, the Jewish [Eastman Gang](#) led by [Edward "Monk Eastman" Osterman](#) and the Italian [Five Points Gang](#) led by [Paolo "Paul Kelly" Vaccarelli](#). These two predominantly Italian and Jewish gangs had some ethnic diversity to them and their leaders and members over the years would wage historic battles until the early 1910s. By then the Irish, Italian and Jewish criminals had organized themselves into some semblance of the Gangs and Families that would come to reign in the underworld for the next 100 years. Italian Gangs or Families such as the Sicilian Morello Family of Manhattan's East Harlem and Little Italy, the Neapolitan Camorra Family of Coney Island, Brooklyn and the Jewish Gangs of the Lower Eastside, Manhattan and Brownsville, Brooklyn, all dominated crime in their areas. Two other well known gangs of this era were the Irish [White Hand Gang](#) led by [William "Wild Bill" Lovett](#) and [Richard "Pegleg" Lonergan](#), who warred over control of the Red Hook, Brooklyn waterfront with the Italian [Black Hand Gang](#) led by [John "The Fox" Torrio](#) and his partner [Francesco "Frankie Yale" Uale](#). Lovett was killed on [November 1, 1923](#) and his associate Lonergan was killed on [December 26, 1925](#) which gave the Italians control of the waterfront. The Italian and Jewish gangs maintained a level of influence and power in the underworld at this time, but the Irish had always maintained their dominance in criminal activities by entering the political world and becoming the dominant leaders in big city politics around the United States from the early 1800s to the 1930s. With the change of America's political and social climate in the late 1920s the politicians and criminals involved in the rackets such as James J. Hines, Arnold Rothstein, Meyer Lansky, John Torrio, Charlie "Lucky" Luciano and Frank Costello could see that the "Noble Experiment" would soon be over and Prohibition would come to an end. The next generation of underworld leaders were contemplating the future of crime and preparing themselves for the change and the Italians planned on being the new and dominate underworld power.

The Irish gangs had dominated underworld activities in America's big cities of New York, New Jersey, Atlantic City, Philadelphia, Boston, Providence, Chicago, St. Louis, Kansas City, the twin cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis, Minnesota, but by the mid 1920s the Irish reign was being challenged by powerful Italian and Jewish gangs, especially in Chicago, St. Louis, New Jersey, Philadelphia, Boston, Providence and of course New York. In Chicago the gang war between the Italian, [South Side Gang](#) of [Johnny Torrio](#) and [Al Capone](#) and the Irish, [North Side Gang](#) of [Dean O'Banion](#) and [George "Bugs" Moran](#) had become legendary by the mid 1920s. These two powerful gangs fought for control of the criminal rackets and Prohibition era operations in Chicago and its surrounding areas, in what the media called "The Beer Wars". These two dominant gangs influenced other, smaller criminal groups in the Chicago underworld who lined up behind one of the two gangs in the war. The two gangs and their allies had been taking shots at each other since 1920, but the war officially started with the [November 10, 1924](#) assassination of Irish, Northside Boss [Dean](#)

[O'Banion](#) in his Northside flower shop. The war brought added law enforcement and media attention, but public outrage came to a head when Italian, Southside Boss [Alphonse "Al Scarface" Capone](#) finally wiped out the [North Side Gang](#) with the [St. Valentine's Day Massacre](#) on [February 14, 1929](#).

In the St. Louis underworld, the Irish [Egan's Rats Gang](#) battled over the Prohibition spoils with a number of different gangs. The Italian underworld was run by two Black Hand Gangs, [The Green Ones](#) and [The Pillow Gang](#). The Italian gangs also warred amongst each other and after years of bitter rivalry they merged themselves into one powerful gang looking to dominate the underworld. By the late 1920s, the Italian gang made up of Green One's and Pillow Gang members who survived the earlier wars and would go on to dominate the St. Louis underworld for decades under La Cosa Nostra's flag started to move in on the Irish Egan's Rats Gang and by 1932 the Rats were no more.

In Atlantic City, South New Jersey, a young Polish immigrant by the name of Michael Cusick decided to change his name to Mickey Duffy to sound more Irish and in 1922 opened an illegal beer brewery in Camden, New Jersey and was on his way to becoming the beer baron of South New Jersey. The Duffy Gang controlled all beer distribution in South New Jersey and by the mid 1920s was making a move into Philadelphia. The Philadelphia underworld and the battle for its Prohibition-era rackets included several top criminal groups based in "The City of Brotherly Love." The Irish O'Leary Gang was led by [Daniel "Danny" O'Leary](#) and his three brothers, the Jewish Hoff Gang was led by well known boxing promoter and crime boss [Max "Boo Boo" Hoff](#), who along with his associates [Charles Schwartz](#) and [Samuel Lazar](#) dominated much of the areas bootlegging activities. Two rival Italian gangs, the Sabella or Castellammarese crime family led by [Salvatore Sabella](#) and his lieutenant Joseph Bruno (born LoCascio) were leading the top mafia group which had strong ties to the New York mafia and it's Castellammarese crime family of Brooklyn. Along with the Lanzetti Gang, led by [Leo Lanzetti](#) and his 5 brothers, known killers and extortionists the Philadelphia underworld was full of crime groups looking to prosper, but finding themselves battling over the same stakes, the wealth brought by Prohibition. The Prohibition era wars in Philadelphia raged on from 1924–31, many casualties and losses were felt within the various crime groups. Italian crime bosses, rivals Joseph Bruno and [Leo Lanzetti](#) were both killed in 1925 just days apart by each others respected groups. In 1928 Irish crime boss Danny O'Leary was murdered by rivals, while Jewish crime boss Max Hoff was having legal troubles, allowing Atlantic City and South New Jersey Irish crime boss Mickey Duffy to take over the majority of the Philadelphia area bootlegging and beer distribution operations, making him the dominant crime boss at the time within the South New Jersey and Philadelphia area bootlegging and beer rackets. This caused the Italian crime groups to unite and merge themselves successfully into one gang or crime family and with the assistance of the remaining Jewish crime bosses they challenged Duffy's reign. Irish boss Micky Duffy was killed on [August 31, 1931](#), leaving the Italian and Jewish crime bosses in complete control of the Philadelphia underworld, something that seemed to have been planned.

In the Boston, Massachusetts and Providence, Rhode Island underworlds, the Italians and Irish first fought for control of gambling operations and then continued their battles over the Prohibition era rackets. Boston's, North End Gang was led by [Filippo "Phil" Buccola](#), [Joseph "J.L." Lombardo](#) and [Frank "The Cheeseman" Cucchiara](#), who aligned themselves with the Providence Morelli Gang led by [Frank "Bootsy" Morelli](#) and [Ray Patriarca](#). They were at war with Boston's Gustin Gang led by Frank Wallace and his ally, [Daniel "Danny" Walsh](#) of Providence. Wallace was a powerful and influential gangster with ties to police and politicians in the Irish wards, allowing him to become Boston's leading bootlegger, supplying speakeasies and blind pigs all across New England. Walsh was a rich and powerful bootlegger in Providence, Rhode Island, who ran a regional offshoot of [Bill Dwyer](#) and [Owney Madden's](#) Combine in New York. He owned a fleet of rum-running boats, controlled the Rhode Island coast line and was a member of the Prohibition era organization known as the "Big Seven Group".^[2] The Italians were determined to wipe out the Irish and take complete control of the Boston and Providence underworlds, merging them into the New England underworld. This was accomplished when Frank Wallace was killed on [December 22, 1931](#), attended a meeting in Boston's North End and Danny Walsh disappeared on [February 2, 1933](#) in Providence. The Italians of Boston and Providence merged in 1932 to form the New England crime family.

In New York, wars or conflicts had been going on for control of the rackets between the Irish and other ethnic gangs since the 1880s, but with the advent of Prohibition and the amount of wealth that had been obtained by it, not only wealth, but great power and influence was now at stake with the end of Prohibition near. There were many Prohibition era wars in New York's underworld, the most famous being the

"Castellamarese War", but before that came the "Manhattan Beer Wars" between two rival bootlegging organizations that had once been part of the Irish Combine. The most powerful underworld leaders from all the ethnic gangs would either have to war for dominance in the Prohibition era rackets or meet with each other and create a peaceful solution, dividing up territories and rackets among the most powerful and influential underworld leaders. By the late 1920s the Italians and Jewish crime leaders were on their way to total domination of America's underworld and the leaders in the big cities took the first steps in reorganization of the underworld.

[[edit](#)] The Leaders Begin to Re-Organize

Since the earliest days of gang activity, New York and Chicago have always been the east coast and mid west centers of underworld activity and with the wealth and power obtained from Prohibition the crime Bosses bought political influence and started to gain more power. The New York and Chicago Bosses began establishing their influence over underworld rules and policies across the United States, giving them control over the smaller gangs in other cities and territories, always moving forward towards organization and control on a national level. The idea for a nationally organized crime syndicate was started by Bosses Arnold "The Brain" Rothstein and John "The Fox" Torrio of New York. By the mid 1920s a new generation of underworld leaders had seen the potential of organizing crime on a national level and began to move in that direction. Younger, intelligent and highly motivated gangsters such as [Charlie "Lucky" Luciano](#) and [Meyer "The Brain" Lansky](#) began to exert their power and influence in the underworld and Americanize its traditions and business practices. These new like-minded leaders began to strengthen their underworld ties by aligning themselves in joint business ventures, without including the older and more established leaders. A common ideology of business, crime and politics, usually referred to as the *Big 3*, fast became the "Holy Trinity" among these new leaders and while cooperating with each other they used it as one of their basic operating principles.

One of the first steps taken towards reorganization in the underworld and the formation of the [National Crime Syndicate](#) came with the idea of forming a cooperative group of the biggest bootleggers on the East coast, allowing its members to minimize overhead costs and maximize potential profits during Prohibition. By 1925 Arnold Rothstein, Johnny Torrio, Charlie "Lucky" Luciano and Meyer Lansky had discussed the idea with each other, but did not begin to move towards the groups formation. The younger and more liberal underworld leaders such as Charlie Luciano, Frank Costello, Joe Adonis, Vito Genovese, Joe Bonanno, Al Capone, Meyer Lansky, Benny Siegel, [Lepke Buchalter](#), [Abner "Longy" Zwillman](#), [Willie Moretti](#), Dutch Schultz and Owney Madden were in favor of the re-organization, but knew that the old guard or "Mustache Petes" were against the move. The old Bosses such as [Giuseppe "Joe the Boss" Masseria](#) and [Salvatore "Little Caesar" Maranzano](#) had long been against cooperation with other ethnic gangs outside the Italian underworld and allowed it only when it was very lucrative and to good to pass up. Finally, the "[Big Seven Group](#)" was formed in the spring of 1928 at a meeting held at Boss Abner "Longy" Zwillman's headquarters in New Jersey and Johnny Torrio was made its executive director.

The seven original groups or gangs involved in the "[Big Seven Group](#)" were Johnny Torrio, Charlie Luciano, Joe Adonis and Frank Costello (and his partner Owney Madden) from New York, Meyer Lansky's and Benny "Bugsy" Siegel's [Bugs & Meyer Mob](#) from New York and New Jersey, Abner "Longy" Zwillman and Willie Moretti from New Jersey and Long Island, [Enoch "Nucky" Johnson](#) of Atlantic City and the South Jersey shore, Waxey Gordon, [Harry "Nig Rosen" Stromberg](#) and [Irving "Bitzy" Bitz](#) of Philadelphia and [Charles "King" Solomon](#) of Boston. The "[Big Seven Group's](#)". Once the "[Big Seven Group's](#)" charter membership was established, Johnny Torrio and his top aides, Charlie Luciano, Frank Costello and Meyer Lansky maintained a base of operations in Manhattan's Belvedere Hotel.^[3] John Torrio appointed his New York lieutenant [Frank Zagarino](#) as his field representative to deal directly with the group from an office in Newark, New Jersey while Torrio stay in the back ground and dealt with the Canadian and European suppliers. As a cover Torrio obtained a license to operate as a bondsman from the New York State Insurance department and opened a bail bond office near the Manhattan Criminal Courts Building on Centre Street, his licensed was soon revoked due to his criminal record, leaving him to secure another license and engage in the real estate business. The rumrunning cartel employed radios and receivers to monitor Coast Guard messages and keep ship captains informed of movements, while the ships moved their cargo along the Atlantic

seaboard from Maine to Virginia. One of the men [John Torrio](#) used to direct the fleet of speedboats and yachts used in the group's smuggling operations was an [Arnold Rothstein](#) protege and narcotics Lt., [Jacob "Yasha" Katzenberg](#) who had delivered heroin and morphine from Europe and Asia for Rothstein and [Lepke Buchalter](#) and who now used his connections in Customs to assist Torrio and the "Big Seven Group".^[4] Eventually the group came to include 26 groups or gangs, including Dutch Schultz of New York, Al "Scarface" Capone of Chicago, [Max "Boo Boo" Hoff](#), [Sam Lazar](#) and [Charles Swartz](#) of Philadelphia, [Moe Dalitz](#), [Louis Rothkopf](#), [Morris Kleinman](#) and [Sam Tucker](#) of Cleveland, brothers [William Joseph "Bugs Bill" Bernstein](#) and [Abe Bernstein](#) of Detroit, [Daniel "Danny" Walsh](#) of Providence, Rhode Island, [Cy Nathanson](#) of New England and many more like Joseph Kennedy of Boston, patriarch of the Kennedy Family and the father of former United States President, John F. Kennedy.

Even before the death of Arnold Rothstein in 1928 and the retirement of Bill Dwyer, the underworld was in the process of a leadership change in most of the major cities in the United States. Arnold Rothstein controlled gambling, bookmaking, loansharking, narcotics and garment center rackets, his death leaving a power vacuum and his large empire now up for grabs in New York. Bill Dwyer's retirement also caused a power vacuum and two underworld groups quickly moved in to take control of his operations in New York. The "Manhattan Beer Wars" occurred in 1928 between the Schultz-Madden-Gordon alliance and the Higgins-Diamond-Coll-Carfano alliance for dominance over Manhattan's beer distribution operations. Bill Dwyer's former lieutenant, the Irish Boss of Brooklyn, Charles "Vannie" Higgins felt that he was entitled to the operations, while Jewish crime Boss, Bronx beer baron and Harlem numbers king, Dutch Schultz wanted them just as bad. Jack "Legs" Diamond and [Vincent "Mad Dog" Coll](#) sided with Higgins since there was a history of bad blood between them, Owney "The Killer" Madden and Waxey Gordon, leaving Madden and Gordon to side with Schultz.

By the late 1920s, the Chicago underworld had reached a wave of violence that peaked with the [February 14, 1929](#) St. Valentine's Day Massacre of seven Irish gangsters on the North side of Chicago. There seemed to be no end in site for the war since violent shootings and murders over the Prohibition rackets were still occurring on a regular basis, the Chicago gangs involved in their own "Beer Wars". Even though New York's underworld was in the midst of its own "Manhattan Beer War", underworld folklore have a carload of Chicago killers being sent to the east coast to kill powerful Brooklyn Boss and *Unione Siciliane* National President, Francesco "Frankie Yale" Uale on [July 1, 1928](#). By 1928, [Giuseppe "Joe the Boss" Masseria](#) and [Salvatore Maranzano](#) were the most powerful Bosses in New York and competing with each other for total dominance over the New York City rackets. The possibility of war between the Bosses needed to be addressed along with other important business affairs now taking center stage in New York's volcano. By April 1929 a proposed underworld conference of like minded mafiosi and gangsters from across the United States was called for by Johnny Torrio, Lucky Luciano, Frank Costello and Meyer Lansky to discuss the possible repeal of Prohibition, the future of crime in the United States and the present conflicts in New York and Chicago. The response from around the country to the proposal had been favorable, the only remaining question was a date and that was easily resolved.

[[edit](#)] The Conference

Jewish crime Boss, [Meyer Lansky](#) was married in early May 1929 and his closest underworld friends concluded that the resort town of Atlantic City, New Jersey would be an ideal place to have his honeymoon and hold the conference, allowing Lansky to mix pleasure and business, along with the rest of the Bosses. The date and place was set for the weekend of [May 13–May 16](#), making the conference the first known underworld summit of its kind, which could be considered the first concrete move towards establishing the National Crime Syndicate that eventually controlled all major criminal activities across the United States.

The Atlantic City Conference was said to be hosted by John Torrio, Charlie "Lucky" Luciano, Frank Costello and Meyer Lansky, depending on who you ask. The old world leaders or "Mustache Petes" from New York, Giuseppe "Joe the Boss" Masseria and Salvatore Maranzano, were not invited, as well as future underworld power Joseph "Joe Bananas" Bonanno since he was Maranzano's top lieutenant at the time. The list of crime leaders who were invited to attend the conference read like a who's who of the Prohibition era and the future of organized crime. The host of the conference was powerful, Atlantic City and South Jersey

crime Boss, [Enoch "Nucky" Johnson](#), who provided the hotel accommodations, food and entertainment for all, while making a guarantee of no police interference.

Of course the largest delegation in the conference came from the New York/New Jersey area and included Bosses John "The Fox" Torrio, formerly of Chicago, Charlie "Lucky" Luciano, Frank Costello, Giuseppe "Joe Adonis" Doto and [Vito Genovese](#), all top members of Manhattan's powerful Masseria Family, [Albert "The Mad Hatter" Anastasia](#), [Frank "Cheech" Scalise](#) and [Vincent Mangano](#), from the D'Aquila/Mineo Family of Manhattan, [Gaetano "Tommy Brown" Lucchese](#), represented the Reina Family out of the Bronx, Quarico "Willie Moore" Moretti, represented the Masseria Family's Newark, New Jersey interests, Meyer "The Brain" Lansky and Benny "Bugsy" Siegel, Bosses of the Bugs and Meyer Mob, who protected liquor shipments in the New York/New Jersey areas, Louis "Lepke" Buchalter and [Jacob "Gurrah" Shapiro](#), considered the underworld's "[Rockefellers](#)" and also known as the "[Gorilla Boys](#)", Abner "Longy" Zwillman, also representing Newark, New Jersey, Dutch Schultz, Bronx beer baron and Harlem numbers king, Owen "Owney the Killer" Madden, Boss of Manhattan's Hell's Kitchen and the Irish Combine, [Frank Erickson](#), former Rothstein Lt., Costello associate and future bookmaking kingpin.

Chicago was represented by Alphonse "Scarface" Capone, [Frank "The Enforcer" Nitti](#), [Jake "Greasy Thumb" Guzik](#), [Frank "Frank Cline" Rio](#), top members of the South Side Capone Gang and representing Mid West interests, Capone body guard and only one of two Irish gangsters present [Frank McErlane](#) of the South Side Saltis/McErlane Gang. From Philadelphia came the top Jewish Bosses, Irving "Waxey Gordon" Wexler, Harry "Nig Rosen" Stromberg, Max "Boo Boo" Hoff, Irving "Bitzy" Bitz and Charles Schwartz. From Cleveland came the "[Little Jewish Navy](#)" of Morris "Moe" Dalitz and Louis "Lou Roddy" Rothkopf, along with adopted Polizzi Family member, [Leo "Charles Polizzi" Berkowitz](#) who represented "[Little Italy's](#)", "[Mayfield Road Mob](#)". The feared [Purple Gang](#) of Detroit was represented by brothers Abe and William Joseph "Bugs Bill" Bernstein. Boston's most prominent bootlegger, Charles "King" Solomon was present, while Kansas City's "[Balestrere Gang](#)" and the "[Pendergast Machine](#)" were represented by Boss [John Lazia](#). Delegations from Florida and Louisiana were also present at the time, which would most likely be, Luciano and Costello allies, [Santo Trafficante, Sr.](#) of Tampa and [Sylvestro "Silver Dollar Sam" Carolla](#) of New Orleans.

two of the underworld's most powerful leaders, [Giuseppe "Joe the Boss" Masseria](#) and [Salvatore Maranzano](#) of New York were not invited. The old guard or "[Mustache Petes](#)" maintained traditional old world ideals and business practices that restricted them from working with other ethnic gangs outside of the Italian underworld, this was counter to the ideals and principles that the leaders, such as Luciano and Torrio wished to express to the other delegates in Atlantic City. At the time of the conference, future underworld power, [Joseph "Joe Bananas" Bonanno](#) was Maranzano's top Lt. and aide and was not invited to Atlantic City, but he would soon become one of the architects of the "[National Crime Syndicate](#)" and the [La Cosa Nostra Commission](#).

The conference started off with a bit of an embarrassing incident for some of those invited who tried to check into the first hotel Nucky Johnson had them registered at. Johnson had registered them at the exclusive Atlantic City Break Hotel along the Boardwalk, which was restricted to [white Anglo-Saxon Protestants](#), and Nucky had used proper Anglo-Saxon aliases for the guests. Once the hotel's management got a look at some of the guests who were trying to check in, well the aliases didn't match the Italian and Jewish faces staring at the management and they delegates were refused admittance in to the hotel, the manager not knowing who he was refusing. By this time Johnson had heard about the problem and rushed over to the hotel to take care of the situation. Al Capone being himself screamed at Nucky Johnson for not making the proper arrangements and a loud argument ensued between the two gangsters while the others watched and hoped they would not come to blows. Suddenly Johnson who was taller and heavier than Capone shoved him into a limousine and ordered every one to follow him. They headed for the Ritz and Ambassador Hotels and when Capone reached the hotel he ripped several framed paintings and photos off the walls of the hotel and started to throw them at Nucky Johnson. The others concentrated on keeping Al Capone calm and quite for the time being.

For the first three days there were a constant round of parties at the hotels with Nucky Johnson supplying plenty of liquor, food and girls for entertainment. For the guests who brought their wives or girlfriends, Johnson provided the women with fur capes as gifts. Meyer Lansky who was the new bride groom and guest of honor received the Presidential suite at the Ritz Hotel, with a constant supply of champagne for

him and his wife Anna.

There were several important items to discuss among the Bosses and attendees such as constant competition for imported and bootleg liquor profits among the gangs, what to do about the liquor business if or when Prohibition ends, greater investment in gambling operations and what to do about the Chicago and Irish problems. As would be expected with sharply dressed gangsters from around the United States, the Atlantic City delegates conducted their more serious discussions and business, privately in conference rooms atop the Ritz and Ambassador Hotels, but not all the meetings were held in a room around a long table, some discussions were had out in the open, with the delegates taking their socks off and rolling up, their pants for walks along the beach, on the sand and in the open air. This made the Conference no great secret, with local newspapers carrying photos of Al Capone and some of the other prominent delegates as they cruised down the boardwalk and beaches, dipping their feet into the water.^[2] Important decisions were made to stop competing with each other during the remainder of Prohibition and cooperate in pooling their resources to maximize profits and develop a national monopoly in the illegal liquor business. One of the most important discussions was what to do when Prohibition ends. The Bosses decided to reorganize themselves and their gangs into cooperative organizations, investing in legitimate breweries, distilleries and liquor importation franchises. By making investments in the legitimate liquor business and by owning nightclubs, bars and restaurants to distribute the liquor and maximize profits, this gave the Syndicate some security against the repeal of Prohibition.

The delegates held discussions about taking a larger interest in illegal and cooperative gambling activities such as bookmaking, horse racing and casinos. The New York and Chicago representatives laid out a plan to tie in the national wire service for horse racing bettors with the *Daily Racing Form* and to lay off bets throughout the United States. This idea was introduced to the conference delegates after Al Capone ran into Chicago's [Moses Annenberg](#) who controlled the mob that enforced distribution of [William R. Hearst's](#) newspapers in the Chicago area. The Families in New York and Chicago would oversee and direct operations for this cooperative and very lucrative venture. New York Bosses, Frank Costello and [Meyer Lansky](#) were chosen as directors to coordinate the operations along with Chicago representatives. New York's future layoff king and gambling czar [Frank Erickson](#) was chosen to oversee the organization of the operation along with Chicago's [Moses Annenberg](#). Chicago businessman and underworld associate [Moses Annenberg](#) was not originally invited to the conference, but after running into Capone, the well known Annenberg was most likely invited to confer with the leaders on business matters concerning the national race wire.

It was agreed by the conference delegates that investments in the legitimate liquor business and gambling was the way to offset the loss of profits from the end of Prohibition and discussions to divide the country into exclusive franchises and territories for the Bosses and their gangs were started at the Atlantic City Conference.

Another important topic was the ongoing violence and bloodletting that was occurring in Chicago. The underworld wars in Chicago and to some extent New York, had brought about a public and media outcry on law enforcement to stop the violence. There had been added media and law enforcement attention and this was placing pressure on underworld rackets and operations around the country. Most of the pressure was mainly due to the recent St. Valentine's Day Massacre in Chicago. With former Al Capone Boss and mentor Johnny Torrio taking the lead and Charlie "Lucky" Luciano and the other delegates backing him up, Capone was chosen as a sacrificial lamb to ease the heat brought on the underworld and its leaders. Al Capone was convinced after much debate and refusal to allow himself to be arrested on a minor charge and sent to prison for a short period of time, deflecting the media and law enforcement pressure for the good of the whole underworld. After the conference was concluded, Chicago underworld Boss Al Capone and his bodyguard Frank Rio went to Philadelphia where two friendly cops arrested and charged them with carrying a gun. Al Capone and Frank Rio were sentenced to a year in prison, but were released and back in Chicago after several months.

[\[edit\]](#) The Future of Organized Crime

Before the end of the conference, emphasis was laid on the fact that all of the future plans and operations

had to be appropriated and administered peacefully among the country's Bosses and criminal organizations, avoiding the sort of violent conflicts that had plagued the underworld in the past. The highly successful "Big Seven Group" was used as a model of future organization and peace for the new "National Syndicate". New York Bosses, Giuseppe "Joe the Boss" Masseria and Salvatore Maranzano, were two old guard mafiosi who held a lot of power and influence nationally and could not be taken lightly. The two major underworld powers were ready to square off in a war, which was seen as running counter to the organizational plans for the future the Atlantic City delegates had agreed upon. The leaders that attended the conference all agreed that to continue with the Syndicate's future plans, the old guard or "Mustache Petes" would have to be eliminated eventually. It was understood that New York's Charlie Luciano and Meyer Lansky group, along with their alliance of up and coming "Young Turks" would have to deal with the old line Bosses once the time was right. The new national alliance or Syndicate in Chicago, Detroit, Boston, Philadelphia and elsewhere would back up the New York forces through removal of the old guard in their areas if need be. It was clear to the delegates at the Atlantic City Conference that Charlie "Lucky" Luciano was a leader who commanded great respect and would eventually become first among equals in the Syndicate. Underworld leaders such as Charlie Luciano, Johnny Torrio, Frank Costello, Meyer Lansky and Arnold Rothstein were men of the same ideology and vision, who saw the future of crime in organization and cooperation. They led America's most powerful criminals with innovation and determination and laid the foundations for the National Syndicate and its long reign over the underworld, which was started with the Atlantic City Conference in 1929.

[\[edit\]](#) Atlantic City Delegates

The terms Capo and Consigliere were not used until [Salvatore Maranzano](#) labeled the Italian underworld *La Cosa Nostra* in 1931, the terms Lt. and Advisor were more common at the time. The position of Consigliere did not exist until [Charlie "Lucky" Luciano](#) became the defacto *first amongst equals* in La Cosa Nostra and added the position to the Family hierarchy in 1931, when he formed the *Commission*.

Underworld members, city or delegation they represented and their rank at time of conference:

Atlantic City:

- [Enoch "Nucky" Johnson](#) - South Jersey/Atlantic City Boss/Host

New York/New Jersey:

- [John "The Fox" Torrio](#) - Former Chicago Torrio/Capone Gang Boss/New York Advisor
- [Salvatore "Charlie Lucky" Luciano](#) - Masseria Family Underboss/New York
- [Frank "The Prime Minister" Costello](#) - Masseria Family Lt./Capo/New York
- [Giuseppe "Joe Adonis" Doto](#) - Masseria Family Lt./Capo/New York
- [Vito Genovese](#) - Masseria Family Lt./Capo/New York
- [Quarico "Willie Moore" Moretti](#) - Masseria family Lt./Capo/New Jersey
- [Vincent Mangano](#) - D'Aquila/Mineo Family Lt./Capo/New York
- [Frank Scalise](#) - D'Aquila Mineo Family Lt./CapoNew York
- [Albert Anastasia](#) - D'Aquila/Mineo Family Lt./Capo/New York
- [Gaetano "Tommy Brown" Lucchese](#) - Riena Family Lt./Capo/New York
- [Meyer "The Brain" Lansky](#) - Bugs & Meyer Mob Boss/New York
- [Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel](#) - Bugs & Meyer Mob Boss/New York
- [Louis Buchalter](#) - Buchalter/Shapiro Gang Boss/New York
- [Jacob Shapiro](#) - Buchalter/Shapiro Gang Boss/New York
- [Dutch Schultz](#) - Schultz Gang Boss/New York
- [Abner Zwillman](#) - North Jersey/Zwillman Gang Boss/New Jersey
- [Owney Madden](#) - Irish Combine Boss/New York
- [Frank Erickson](#) - former Rothstein Lt./Costello Associate/New York

Chicago:

- [Alphonse "Scarface" Capone](#) - South Side/Capone Gang Boss/Chicago
- [Frank "The Enforcer" Nitti](#) - South Side/Capone Gang Lt./Capo/Chicago
- [Jake Guzik](#) - South Side/Capone Gang Lt./Capo/Chicago
- [Frank "Frank Cline" Rio](#) - South Side/Capone Gang Lt./Capo/Chicago
- [Frank McErlane](#) - Saltis/McErlane Gang Boss/Capone Bodyguard/Chicago

Philadelphia:

- [Irving Wexler](#) - Jewish Mob Boss/Philly
- [Max Hoff](#) - Jewish Mob Boss/Philly
- [Harry Stromberg](#) - Jewish Mob Boss/Philly
- [Irving Bitz](#) - Jewish Mob Boss/Philly
- [Charles Schwartz](#) - Jewish Mob Boss/Philly
- [Samuel Lazar](#) - Jewish Mob Boss/Philly

Cleveland:

- [Morris Dalitz](#) - Little Jewish Navy Boss/Cleveland
- [Louis Rothkopf](#) - Little Jewish Navy Boss/Cleveland
- [Leo Berkowitz](#) - Little Jewish Navy/Mayfield Road Mob Associate/Cleveland^[5]

Detroit:

- [William Joseph Bernstein](#) - Purple Gang Boss/Detroit (a.k.a. "Bill Bugs")
- [Abraham Bernstein](#) - Purple Gang Boss/Detroit

Kansas City:

- [Giovanni Lazia](#) - Pendergast Machine/Balestrere Gang Lt./Capo/Kansas City (a.k.a. Lazio)

Massachusetts:

- [Charles Solomon](#) - Jewish Mob Boss/Boston^[6]

Florida:

- [Santo Trafficante Sr.](#) - Senior Tampa Family Member/Tampa^[7]

Louisiana:

- [Sylvestro Corallo](#) - Matranga/Giacona Family Lt./Capo/New Orleans^[8]
- [Gaetano Gagliano](#) - Riena Family Underboss/ New York^[9]
- [Carlo Gambino](#) - D'Aquila/Mineo Family Lt./Capo/New York^[10]
- [Frank "The Cheeseman" Cucchiara](#) - Boston North End Gang/Buccola Family Lt.^[11]
- [Frank "Bootsy" Morelli](#) - Providence Morelli Gang Boss.^[12]

[\[edit\]](#) Problems identifying attendants

Some crime historians, such as T. J. English, believe that the Italian and Jewish crime bosses did not invite the most prominent Irish bootleggers and criminals of the time to the Atlantic City Conference because they intended to wipe them out along with the old guard or "Mustache Petes" that controlled the majority of criminal operations in the big cities. Daniel "Danny" Walsh of Providence, Rhode Island, was one of the leaders that most crime historians are unsure attended the meeting. Walsh was one of the most prominent Irish bootleggers of the Prohibition era, was an associate and partner of New York's Irish Combine leaders

(William "Big Bill" Dwyer and Owney Madden), and was an alleged member of the "Big Seven Group". This alone should have guaranteed his invitation, but some crime historians point to the fact that the Irish bosses were about to be eliminated and that only two other Irish bosses were present at the meeting. Walsh's membership in the "Big Seven Group" and the fact that he was not eliminated until 1933, makes for a good argument to include him. But had he been present, he would have been the only Irish boss in attendance.

The most prominent and well known Irish Bosses of the time included Frank Wallace of Boston, Daniel "Danny" Walsh of Providence, George "Bugs" Moran, the South Side O'Donnells (brothers Edward (Spike), Steven, Tommy and Walter), the West Side O'Donnells (Klondike and Myles), William "Big Bill" Dwyer, Charles "Vannie" Higgins, Jack "Legs" Diamond and Vincent "Mad Dog" Coll of New York. None of these men were present, not even Walsh.

Many historians believe English is correct: The Italians and Jews wanted to wipe out the Irish bosses, and so did not invite them. Frank Wallace was killed by hitters in Boston's Italian Mob in 1931, Danny Walsh was dealt with and disappeared in 1933, Bugs Moran would have been the Irish Boss to represent Chicago, but he had just missed being killed in the St. Valentines Day Massacre when his gang was decimated and he faded into obscurity soon after, the South Side and West Side O'Donnells of Chicago weren't as powerful as Moran and would not have been chosen to represent Chicago, they were at war with Capone and his allies. New York's Vannie Higgins, Legs Diamond and Vincent Coll were involved in the "Manhattan Beer Wars" against Jewish Bosses Dutch Schultz, Waxey Gordon and Irish/Welsh Boss, Owney Madden. At the Atlantic City Conference, Schultz was heard saying at the Ambassador Hotel. "This crazy maniac Coll is causing me no end of grief", were Gordon added, "Yeah, and what about this bastard, Legs Diamond? He's hijacking my trucks and raiding our clip joints all over North Jersey".^[2] Vannie Higgins was killed on [January 19, 1932](#) in New York, Legs Diamond was shot three times and killed in his Albany, New York hideout on [December 18, 1931](#) and Mad Dog Coll was killed inside a New York phone booth by Schultz gunmen, while talking to Owney Madden on [February 8, 1932](#).

In the New England area Prohibition wars, Jewish Mob Boss and Boston's most prominent crime leader and bootlegger, Charles "King" Solomon was killed at his Roxbury, Boston speakeasy, known as the Cotton Club on [January 24, 1933](#). Law enforcement theorize that either Italian or Irish underworld leaders in the North End Buccola Family of Boston, Massachusetts or the Walsh Mob of Providence, Rhode Island had Solomon assassinated, either way, Solomon became another victim of the mob war for dominance in New England's underworld. As Irish Bosses Wallace and Walsh were killed by Boston's North End Italians, Solomon was most likely killed by them as well, being that Italian dominance was uncontested in the New England underworld there after.^[13]

Another interesting sidenote was that future US Ambassador to Britain, billionaire and father of president [John F. Kennedy](#), [Joseph P. Kennedy](#) was allegedly a leading Prohibition era rum runner and whisky baron in Massachusetts, Rhode Island and New York. Kennedy made his legitimate billions in banking, real estate and the Hollywood movie business, but he was an alleged associate of gangsters [Bill Dwyer](#), [Owney Madden](#), [Danny Walsh](#), [Frank Costello](#), [Al Capone](#) and is also mentioned in [Joseph Bonanno's](#) book, "A Man of Honor". In recent years information on [Joseph Kennedy](#) has been leaked to the media and various investigative reporters linking him to these gangsters, exposing his Prohibition operations. It is alleged that he did business with Dwyer, Madden and Costello's New York Combine, their regional offshoot in Providence run by [Danny Walsh](#) and with [Al Capone's](#) Chicago organization. Kennedy was not a bootlegger, per se, but an importer and wholesaler, who purchased large quantities of alcohol from England and Canada and facilitated its shipment. after the booze was purchased, it was usually transferred from Nova Scotia to the eastern seaboard, where it was off-loaded under cover of darkness along the Massachusetts or Rhode Island coastline or somewhere in Long Island, New York. The crime syndicates or gangs and their bootleggers would take over from there, making [Joseph P. Kennedy](#) and his family very rich. It is alleged that Kennedy kept his associations with the underworld all through his life, becoming the middleman between the underworld and political worlds of Massachusetts and New York, using the underworld's connections to labor unions for business and political purposes. [Joseph P. Kennedy's](#) most famous act was getting the Chicago and New York underworlds to assist in the election of his son [John F. Kennedy](#) to the Presidency of the United States by having the underworld solicit votes and support from the labor unions,^[2]

politicians and prominent community members all under the mobs influence.

[\[edit\]](#) References

- ↑ Sifakis, p. 21-22
- ↑ *a* *b* *c* *d* *e* English, p. 173
- ↑ Wolf, p. 87
- ↑ McPhaul, p. 235-36
- ↑ Leo Berkowitz was of Jewish decent, but he was adopted into a prominent Cleveland underworld family, the Polizzi Family and was taken under the wing of his mentor Al Polizzi. His Jewish decent and Italian associations allowed him to be recognized as an affiliated member of both the Little Jewish Navy and Mayfield Road Mob, which aligned themselves into a larger crime group in the 1930s to form Cleveland's leading criminal organization and recognized crime family.
- ↑ Allegedly, Solomon did not want to fully co-operate with the Luciano faction or create new alliances with former Italian rivals in his area of Boston, he was eventually eliminated by Luciano allies.
- ↑ Trafficante is the most likely delegate. Trafficante held close ties with the New York mafia, but he was aligned with boss Joe Profaci, a close Maranzano ally and the man who allegedly supported Trafficante's leadership in Tampa. Trafficante being present at the meeting may have been seen as a betrayal to his allies in New York, so he was most likely not present.
- ↑ Corallo is the most likely delegate. He was a leading group leader within the New Orleans mafia who was considered by many Mob historians to be street boss of the old Matranga faction and possibly acting boss of the New Orleans crime family at this time. The New Orleans crime family was very autonomous throughout it's history and shown much respect by affiliate mafia groups due to it being the oldest mafia family in America. Corallo was the leading bootlegger in his territory or area and had dealings with certain east coast bosses and rumor was he had been approached by Luciano to support his eventual coup against the old guard leaders within the mafia, but there is no solid or concrete proof of any kind that Corallo was present.
- ↑ Gagliano was Tommy Luchese's superior and close associate, and a Charlie Luciano ally. If he was an ally of the Luciano faction he would have been represented by Tommy Luchese, his second in command.
- ↑ He was a Frank Scalise associate and business partner, and eventually a strong supporter and future ally of Charlie Luciano.
- ↑ His group was a leading underworld power in Boston, just behind Frank Wallace & Charles Solomon. After the elimination of Wallace and Solomon in Boston, Massachusetts, along with Walsh in Providence, Rhode Island, the Italians reigned supreme in New England's underworld. Cucchiara and [Charlie Luciano](#) were born in neighbouring Sicilian villages in 1897 and stayed close friends throughout their lives, Frank Cucchiara worked closely with Charlie Luciano in New York and [Al Capone](#) in Chicago throughout the 1920s and remained a close associate of both men. It is more than likely Cucchiara would have been the Boston representative for the Italians. The future New England Family Consigliere later represented his Family, along with the deported and deposed New York Bosses, [Charlie Luciano](#) and [Frank Costello](#) at the 1957 Apalachin Meeting.
- ↑ Frank Morelli led a powerful Prohibition era gang that controlled bootlegging and gambling operations in Providence, Connecticut and Maine and would most likely be the Italian representative for Providence in Atlantic City. His gang merged with the Boston North End Gang/Buccola Family in 1932 to form the New England Family. Morelli the Family's Underboss until his retirement in 1947.
- ↑ Fopiano, p. 11
 - McPhaul, Jack. *Johnny Torrio: The First of the Gang Lords*. Arlington House, 1970.
 - Messick, Hank. *Lansky*. Berkley Medallion, 1971.
 - Gosch, Martin & Hammer, Richard. *The Last Testament of Lucky Luciano*. Dell Publishing Company, 1974.
 - Wolf, George. *Frank Costello: The Prime Minister of the Underworld*. William Morrow & Company, 1974.
 - Charbanneau, Jean Pierre. *The Canadian Connection*. Optimum Publishing, 1976.
 - Fopiano, Willie & Harney, John. *The Godson: A True Life Account of 20 Years Inside the Mob*. St.

Martins Press/Thomas Dunne Books, 1993.

- Time Life Books. *True Crime: Mafia*. Time Warner, 1993.
- Sifakis, Carl. *The Mafia Encyclopedia: Second Edition*. Checkmark Books, 1999.
- Reppetto, Thomas. *The American Mafia: A History of Its Rise to Power*. Henry Holt & Company, 2004.
- English, T. J. *Paddy Wacked: The Untold Story of the Irish American Gangster*. Regan Books, 2005.

[[edit](#)] External links

- [Johnny "The Fox" Torrio: The Father of Modern American Gangsterdom](#) by Allen May
- [Waxey Gordon: Half A Century At Crime](#) by Allen May
- [Three Thin Dimes: The Demise of Larry Fay](#) by Allen May
- [Vannie Higgins: Brooklyn's Last Irish Boss](#) by Allen May

Retrieved from "http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atlantic_City_Conference"

Categories: [Mafia meetings](#) | [American Mafia events](#)

Hidden category: [Articles needing additional references from July 2007](#)

Views

- [Article](#)
- [Discussion](#)
- [Edit this page](#)
- [History](#)

Personal tools

- [Log in / create account](#)

Navigation

- [Main page](#)
- [Contents](#)
- [Featured content](#)
- [Current events](#)
- [Random article](#)

Search

Interaction

- [About Wikipedia](#)
- [Community portal](#)
- [Recent changes](#)
- [Contact Wikipedia](#)
- [Donate to Wikipedia](#)
- [Help](#)

Toolbox

- [What links here](#)

Havana Conference

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Jump to: [navigation](#), [search](#)



This article may require [cleanup](#) to meet Wikipedia's [quality standards](#).

Please [improve this article](#) if you can. *(November 2006)*

The **Havana Conference** of 1946 was a historic meeting of American mafia and [Cosa Nostra](#) leaders in [Havana](#), [Cuba](#). Supposedly arranged by [Charles "Lucky" Luciano](#), the conference was held to discuss important mob policies, rules, and business interests. The Havana Conference was attended by delegations representing crime families throughout the United States. The conference was held during the week of [22 December 1946](#) at the [Hotel Nacional](#). The Havana Conference is considered to have been the most important mob summit since the [Atlantic City Conference](#) of 1929. Decisions made in Havana resonated throughout the American crime families for the ensuing decades.

Contents

[[hide](#)]

- [1 Background](#)
- [2 The Conference Begins](#)
- [3 The Narcotics Trade](#)
- [4 The Siegel Situation](#)
- [5 Lucky and Don Vito](#)
- [6 Havana Conference Attendees](#)
 - [6.1 Hosts](#)
 - [6.2 New York-New Jersey Delegation](#)
 - [6.3 Chicago Delegation](#)
 - [6.4 Buffalo Delegation](#)
 - [6.5 New Orleans Delegation](#)
 - [6.6 Tampa Delegation](#)
 - [6.7 Jewish Syndicate Delegation](#)
- [7 Sidenote](#)
 - [7.1 In Fiction](#)
 - [7.2 References](#)
- [8 External links](#)

[[edit](#)] Background

The reported organizer of the Havana Conference was the well-known and powerful crime boss, Lucky Luciano. At the beginning of World War II, Luciano was sitting in prison serving a 30-to-50-year prison term for pandering. In 1942, US military intelligence officers approached [Joseph "Socks" Lanza](#) and [Meyer Lansky](#) with a proposal for Luciano. At that time, Lanza was one of the mafia bosses who controlled Manhattan's [Fulton Fish Market](#), its workers, and the docks in Lower Manhattan. Lansky had broader power in cities along the Atlantic Seaboard. Military intelligence was very worried about possible Nazi sabotage of docks and other shipping facilities in New York and other East Coast ports. The government told Luciano that if his family was able to protect East Coast ports from sabotage, he would be pardoned at the end of the war

and deported to Italy a free man. Luciano agreed to the proposal and assisted the government.

After the war ended, [New York](#) Governor [Thomas E. Dewey](#) agreed to Luciano's pardon and deportation on the condition that never be allowed back into the U.S. In February [1946](#), after a lavish farewell party on the ocean liner, Luciano sailed back to Italy. He first settled in [Lercara Friddi](#), Sicily, then moved to [Palermo](#), [Naples](#), and [Rome](#). After being kicked out of Rome by Italian police, Luciano finally settled in [Naples](#). Luciano immediately started planning a return to the United States.

In early Fall 1946, Luciano received a sealed envelope from a recently-deported US mafioso. The message in the envelope contained three words, "December-Hotel Nacional." In late September, Luciano obtained two Italian passports made out in his real name, [Salvatore Lucania](#), with visas for Mexico, Cuba, and several South American nations. Luciano was now able to visit the Western Hemisphere and meet with criminal associates from the States. In late October, Luciano traveled from Italy to [Caracas](#), [Venezuela](#), [Mexico City](#), and finally [Havana](#), [Cuba](#). Meyer Lansky greeted his old friend on his arrival in Cuba. Following Luciano's orders, Lansky had organized a conference in Havana the week of [22 December](#) of crime bosses from all over the United States. Lansky quickly suggested that Luciano purchase a \$150,000 interest in the Hotel Nacional, a plush casino and hotel owned by Lansky and his silent partner, Cuban President, [Fulgencio Batista y Zaldívar](#). Luciano agreed and the Havana Conference was set.

In December 1946, the Havana Conference started as planned. To welcome Luciano back from exile and acknowledge his continued authority within the mob, all the conference invitees brought Luciano cash envelopes. These "Christmas Presents" totalled more than \$200,000. At the first night dinner hosted by Lansky, [Frank Costello](#), and [Joe Adonis](#), Luciano was presented with the money. The official cover story for the Havana Conference was that the mobsters were attending a gala party with Frank Sinatra as the entertainment. Sinatra flew to [Havana](#) with Al Capone cousins, Charlie, Rocco and Joseph Fischetti from Chicago. [Joseph "Joe Fish" Fischetti](#), an old Sinatra acquaintance, acted as Sinatra's chaperone and bodyguard. Charlie and Rocco Fischetti delivered a suitcase containing \$2 million to Luciano, his share of the U.S. rackets he still controlled.

The most pressing items on the conference agenda were the leadership and authority within the New York mafia, the mob-controlled [Havana](#) casino interests, the narcotics operations, and the West Coast operations of [Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel](#), especially the new [Flamingo Hotel](#) and casino in [Las Vegas](#). Luciano, absent from the American underworld scene for several months, was especially concerned with the situation in New York. Powerful boss [Vito Genovese](#) had returned to New York from exile in Italy and was not content with assuming a minor role in the organization.

[[edit](#)] The Conference Begins

The Havana Conference convened on [December 22, 1946](#). Delegates were there representing New York City, New Jersey, Buffalo, Chicago, New Orleans and Florida, with the largest delegation of bosses from the New York-New Jersey area. Several major bosses from the Jewish Syndicate were at the conference to discuss joint La Cosa Nostra-Jewish Syndicate business. According to conference rules, the Jewish delegates could not vote on Cosa Nostra rules or policies. However, the Jewish crime bosses were allowed input on any joint business ventures, such as the [Flamingo Hotel](#).

Luciano opened up the Havana Conference by thanking all the delegates for their envelopes, then went on to discuss a topic that would greatly affect his authority within the American mafia; the position of "[capo di tutti capi](#)" or "boss of all bosses". The last official boss of all bosses had been [Salvatore Maranzano](#), who was murdered in September of 1931. By the end of 1931, Luciano had eliminated this top position and re-organized the Italian mafia into "La Cosa Nostra", or "This Thing of Ours". A board of directors, commonly called the "Commission", had been formed to oversee criminal activities, control rules, and set policies. La Cosa Nostra thus became the top criminal organization within the [National Crime Syndicate](#).

Now Luciano could easily have declared himself as Maranzano's heir in 1932; instead, Luciano decided to exercise control behind the scenes. This arrangement had worked until Vito Genovese's return from Italy. Officially, Genovese was now just a caporegime; however, he had made it clear that he intended to take

control of the [Luciano crime family](#). Since Luciano's deportation in 1946, Luciano ally, [Frank Costello](#) had been the acting boss of the Luciano family. As a result, tensions between the Costello and Genovese factions had started to fester. Luciano had no intention of stepping down as family boss; he had to do something about Genovese. Luciano also realized that Genovese threatened his overall authority and influence within the American mafia, probably with support from other crime bosses. Therefore, Luciano decided to resurrect the boss of all bosses position and claim it for himself. He hoped the other bosses would support him, either by officially affirming the title or at least by acknowledging that he was still "First Amongst Equals" .

At the conference, Luciano allegedly presented the motion to retain his position as the top boss in La Cosa Nostra. Then Luciano ally, [Albert "The Mad Hatter" Anastasia](#) seconded the motion. Anastasia voted with Luciano because he felt threatened by Genovese's attempts to muscle in on his waterfront rackets. Checkmated by the solid Luciano-Costello-Anastasia alliance, Genovese was forced to swallow his big ambitions and plan for the future. Luciano's motion passed. To further embarrass Genovese, Luciano encouraged Anastasia and Genovese to settle their differences and shake hands in front of the other bosses. This symbolic gesture was meant to prevent another bloody gang war such as the [Castellammarese War of 1930-1931](#). With Luciano solidifying his personal position and squashing Genovese's ambition for now, Luciano brought up discussion of the mob's narcotics operations in the United States.

[\[edit\]](#) The Narcotics Trade

One of the key topics at the Havana Convention was the global [narcotics trade](#) and the mob's operations in the United States. A longstanding myth has been the supposed refusal of Luciano and the Cosa Nostra to deal in narcotics. In reality, only a few bosses such as [Frank Costello](#) and the other bosses who controlled lucrative gambling empires opposed narcotics. The anti-drug faction believed that the Cosa Nostra did not need narcotics profits, that narcotics brought unwanted law enforcement and media attention, and that the general public considered it to be a very harmful activity (unlike gambling). The pro-drug faction said that narcotics were far more profitable than any other illegal activity. Furthermore, if the Cosa Nostra ignored the drug trade, other criminal organizations would jump in and eventually diminish the Cosa Nostra's power and influence.

Luciano himself had a long involvement in the drug trade, starting as a smalltime street dealer in the late 1910s. In 1928, after the murder of [Arnold "The Big Bankroll" Rothstein](#), Luciano and [Louis "Lepke" Buchalter](#) took over Rothstein's large drug importation operation. Since the 1920's, La Cosa Nostra had been involved in importing ([heroin](#), [cocaine](#), and [marijuana](#)) into North America. In the 1930's, the organization started transporting narcotics from the [East Asia Golden Triangle](#) and South America to Cuba and into Florida. The American mafia's longtime association with the government of [Cuba](#) concerning gambling interests such as casinos along with their legitimate business investments on the Caribbean island put them in a position to use their political and underworld connections to make Cuba one of their narcotics importation layovers or smuggling points where the drugs could be stored and then placed on sea vessels before they continued on to Canada and United States via [Montreal](#) and Florida among the ports used by Luciano's associates.

With Luciano's deportation to Italy, he now had the opportunity to import heroin from North Africa via Italy and Cuba into the US and Canada. Luciano made connections with Sicily's biggest bosses such as Don [Calogero "Calo" Vizzini](#) of Villalba who assisted the Allies invasion of Sicily and had the greatest political connections of all the Sicilian bosses. Also, Don [Pasquale Ania](#), a powerful boss in Palermo who had connections to legitimate pharmaceutical companies because large scale heroin manufacturing in Italy was legal at the time.

During the Havana Conference, Luciano detailed the proposed drugs network to the bosses. After arriving in Cuba from North Africa, the mob would ship the narcotics to US ports that it controlled, primarily New York City, New Orleans, and Tampa. The narcotics shipped to the New York docks would be overseen by the [Luciano crime family](#) (later the Genovese) and the [Mangano crime family](#) (later the Gambino). In New Orleans, the operation would be overseen by the [Marcello crime family](#), led by [Carlos "Little Man" Marcello](#). In [Tampa](#), the narcotics shipments would be overseen by the [Trafficante crime family](#) led by [Louis "Santo"](#)

[Trafficante Jr.](#). The Havana Convention delegates voted to approve the plan.

Luciano built a massive drug organization spanning Italy and America. One of Luciano's narcotics Lieutenants in [Siculiana, Sicily](#) was his old associate from New York, [Nicola "Zu Cola" Gentile](#) who oversaw all drug operations in the [Agrigento](#) province for Lucky Luciano and his partner Don [Giuseppe Settecasi](#), the Capo-provincial of [Agrigento](#). A top Luciano Lieutenant in the "Caneba Network" of mainland Italy was [Antonio Farina](#) who would ship the narcotics to their U.S. partners in New York's [Mangano crime family](#) including Albert Anastasia, [Frank "Don Cheech" Scalise](#), [Jack Scarpulla](#), [Peter Beddia](#) and [Matthew "Matty" Cuomo](#).

Long time Luciano ally [Frank "Fingers" Coppola](#) ran the Sicilian "Partinico Clan". This was a satellite group affiliated with the [Detroit Partnership](#) or [Zerilli crime family](#) led by boss [Joseph "Joe Z." Zerilli](#) and fellow bosses and Detroit allies, [John "Papa John" Priziola](#), [Angelo Meli](#), and [Rafaelle Quasarano](#). The [Detroit crime family](#) then shipped the narcotics to their New York contacts, [Giovanni "Big John" Ormento](#), of the [Lucchese crime family](#), [Carmine "Lilo" Galante](#) and [Natale "Joe Diamonds" Evola](#) of the [Bonanno crime family](#), [Frank "Cheech" Livorsi](#) of the [Luciano crime family](#), and [Joseph "Joe Bandy" Biondo](#) of the [Mangano crime family](#). These East Coast contacts would then distribute the drugs all along the East Coast.

Other Luciano lieutenants working mainland Italy included American deportees, [Frank Barone](#) and [Giuseppe Arena](#) in [Rome](#), [Frank Pirico](#), [Frank Saverino](#) and [Giovanni Maugeri](#) in [Milan](#), [Salvatore DiBella](#) in [Naples](#), and former [Mangano crime family](#) soldier, [Joseph "Joe Peachy" Pici](#) in [Milan](#) and [Genoa](#). Others U.S. distribution groups that worked with Luciano and his allies were "The Bellanca Gang", brothers, Antonio, Joseph and [Sebastiano "Benny Blanca" Bellanca](#) and [Gaetano "Tommy" Martino](#) of the [Mangano crime family](#). Then there was the group of [Settimo "Big Sam" Accardi](#), [Joseph "Hoboken Joe" Stassi](#) and his brothers, Frank and [Anthony Stassi](#), [Anthony Granza](#), [Vincent Ferrara](#) and [Louis Cirillo](#) who worked for [Albert "The Mad Hatter" Anastasia](#) and [Carlo "Carl" Gambino](#). Even with all the growing animosity Lucky Luciano couldn't leave out his old associate, [Vito "Don Vito" Genovese](#) who had his group of distributors including [Anthony "Tony Bender" Strollo](#), [Vincent "Vinnie Bruno" Mauro](#), [Frank "The Bug" Caruso](#), [Salvatore "Sam" Maneri](#), [Vincent "Chin" Gigante](#) and even [Joseph "Joe Cago" Valachi](#) who were all associated with the "Papalia-Agueci Network" of the [Magaddino crime family](#) of [Buffalo](#) and led by members, [John "Johnny Pops" Papalia](#) and [Alberto Agueci](#) of [Hamilton](#) and [Toronto, Ontario](#).

At first the mafia's operation was one of many individual operations connected or affiliated to the French-Corsican Mob or [Unione Corse](#)'s famous "French Connection" heroin distribution ring. By the late 1950s the Sicilians and Americans organized a joint U.S. and Sicilian La Cosa Nostra narcotics operation that would eventually grow into one of the largest global narcotics operation ever. This famous joint U.S.-Sicilian operation came to be known as the "Pizza Connection" and was cemented between the two mafia organizations at the famous mafia summit held at the [Grand Hotel des Palmes](#) in Palermo, Sicily in October, 1957.

Salvatore and Ugo Caneba assisted Luciano and were the overseers of the famous heroin operation they controlled from mainland Italy to the United States, the "Caneba Network" which supplied high grade pharmaceutical quality heroin. Luciano's narcotics network was big and complex and he had many of his old, deported former U.S. allies to help him run his empire throughout the late 1940s. The main drug imported by Luciano's network at the time was heroin and the main sources were French underworld "Clans" that made up the core of the Unione Corse Syndicate, or French Mob. The "Corsican Clan" was headed by powerful bosses Antoine D'Agostino, Jean Baptiste Croce and Paul Mondolini, while the "Marseilles Clan" was made up of 4 Groups. These 4 powerful groups included brothers, Antoine and Barthelemy "Meme" Guerini, brothers, Dominique & Jean Venturi, brothers, Marcel, Xavier and Jean Francisci, and Joseph Orsini. Auguste Joseph Ricord was another boss that became part of the Unione Corse in the 1960s-70's. These two "Clans" ruled the French underworld from the late 1940s to the late 1960s, supplying Luciano and his mafia allies with large amounts of heroin until the heroin ring known as the ["French Connection"](#) started to crumble in 1972 with the arrest of one of its biggest bosses, Auguste Joseph Ricord.

The Luciano narcotics empire continued to grow and prosper with the help of his U.S. associates. Many of Luciano's partners in the narcotics empire were "Havana Conference" delegates such as [Joseph "The Old](#)

[Man" Profaci](#) who was once the biggest importer of olive oil and tomato paste in the United States and quietly used his food importation business to smuggle narcotics for decades, [Gaetano "Tommy Brown" Lucchese](#), a longtime Luciano ally from their days as children in the streets of New York and who along with his [Lucchese crime family](#)'s narcotics distribution arm, the [107th St. Crew](#) which controlled all heroin distribution in Harlem, New York. Without a doubt one of the architects of the American heroin network and a partner of Luciano is well known and powerful New York mafia boss, [Joseph "Joe Bananas" Bonanno](#), the patriarch of the [Bonanno crime family](#), who along with the assistance of his cousin, [Buffalo crime family](#) boss, [Stefano "The Undertaker" Magaddino](#) led the American mafia's expansion into Canada. Bonanno's and Magaddino's crime families in New York and Buffalo opened up Montreal and Toronto in the 1950s as satellite groups or individual operations connected with the famous "[The French Connection](#)", but eventually the satellite groups would grow into their own powerful crime families and control massive narcotics distribution networks that still operate even today, all of the narcotics networks mentioned help destroy the myth that Charlie Luciano and La Cosa Nostra were against narcotics. When Cuban President, [Fulgencio Batista](#) y Zaldívar was eventually overthrown by [Fidel Castro](#) in 1959, the mob had to look elsewhere for a landing and storage facility for their narcotics shipments.

[[edit](#)] The Siegel Situation

The next item on the agenda at the Havana Conference was what Lansky called the "Siegel Situation". In the mid 1930s, the [New York](#) and [Chicago](#) crime families had been sent out west to set up and oversee a race wire service, oversee gambling activities in [Los Angeles](#) and [Nevada](#), and supervise narcotics shipments from [Mexico](#). In a short while, [Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel](#) had become a very popular and visible figure in [Hollywood](#)'s most glamorous circles. During a stopover one day in Las Vegas, Siegel got the idea of constructing a totally legal casino and hotel in the desert that would rival those in [Monte Carlo](#). This [Flamingo Hotel](#) project became Siegel's obsession. Siegel persuaded his longtime friend and business associate, Meyer Lansky, to help him sell New York and Chicago crime bosses on investing in this project. Siegel promised the bosses that the hotel and casino would be a smart and profitable investment.

However, the Flamingo project immediately ran into big problems. Siegel was a competent gangster, but knew absolutely nothing about building a hotel. To compound matters, he appointed his girlfriend [Virginia Hill](#) as a project overseer. As a result, contractors were stealing Siegel blind; they would sell him materials one day, then steal them from the building site at night, then resell them to Siegel the next day. The Flamingo project was also impacted by the rising cost of materials and labor from the post World War II building boom. The bottom line was that a project projected to cost \$1.5 million would eventually reach \$6 million. Understandably, the mob investors were not at all happy.

To make matters worse, the bosses suspected Siegel and Hill of stealing project money. Lansky and the bosses had discovered that [Hill](#) was taking frequent trips to [Zurich](#), [Switzerland](#) and depositing money in a bank account. They suspected that Siegel was skimming money and might flee the country if the Flamingo failed. So the Flamingo was way over budget, it wasn't finished, and Siegel and Hill might be stealing the money. Unfortunately for Siegel, he had not been invited to the Havana Convention or even notified that he was on the agenda.

Following a discussion, the delegates voted to whack Siegel. The delegates assigned Chicago Outfit Consigliere, [Charles "Trigger Happy" Fischetti](#) to oversee the contract. The actual hit would be given to [Jack Dragna](#), the [Los Angeles crime family](#) boss and close to Siegel. Dragna, who despised Siegel, then gave the contract to Mob hitman, [Paul "Frankie" Carbo](#), a [Luciano crime family](#) soldier. Carbo eventually became the czar of professional boxing in America.

However, at the last moment, Siegel got a reprieve. The partly-completed Flamingo was scheduled to open December 26th. Longtime Siegel friend Lansky convinced the delegates to wait and see how the hotel did in its opening. The delegates agreed and then took a break for Christmas Day. Unfortunately, the delegates soon learned that the Flamingo opening night was a flop. The enraged mobsters demanded Siegel's head on a platter. However, Lansky again convinced them to wait. He argued that Siegel could still save the casino and make money. The delegates reluctantly agreed and the Siegel Situation was resolved...for now.

After a two week, the Flamingo closed to resume construction. The completed hotel opened a few months later. The Flamingo started making a small profit, but the mafia investors had finally lost patience with Siegel. On [20 June 1947](#), Siegel was home alone at Virginia Hill's mansion reading a newspaper by a living room window. A gunman with any army [carbine](#) rose up from the bushes and fired four shots into the room. Bugsy Siegel was hit twice in the head and twice in the torso and died instantly. Siegel's left eye had been shot out; it was found allegedly on the fireplace mantel.

[[edit](#)] Lucky and Don Vito

At the end of the Havana Conference, the tension between Luciano and Genovese allegedly reached a boiling point, according to "The Last Testament of Lucky Luciano", by [Martin Gosch](#) and [Richard Hammer](#).

Meeting with Luciano in his room at the Hotel Nacional, Genovese told him that the U.S. government knew that Luciano was in [Cuba](#) and was pressuring the Cuban Government to expel him. Since Luciano was going to have to return to Italy, he should turn over leadership of the Luciano Family to Genovese and retire.

Positive that Genovese had tipped off the US government to his presence in Cuba, Luciano finally snapped. He proceeded to beat Genovese and eventually broke three of his ribs; it was three days before Vito could travel again. When Genovese felt better, Luciano and Anastasia then put Genovese on a plane to the States. Luciano also threatened to kill Genovese if he ever mentioned this incident to anyone.

In February [1947](#), the [New York City](#) papers got wind of the fact that Luciano was in [Cuba](#). U.S. drug agent [Harry Anslinger](#) (called that S.O.B *Asslinger* by Luciano) demanded that Cuba deport Luciano Italy. Anslinger claimed that Luciano was behind the recent surge of heroin into the United States. When Cuba refused to comply, Anslinger took his case to President [Harry S. Truman](#). The U.S. government then halted all shipments of medical supplies to Cuba while Luciano was still on the island. Luciano, Lansky, and President Batista tried to strike back by halting all Cuban sugar exports to the US, but it had no effect on Washington. Later in February, the Cubans caved in; they arrested Luciano and sent him back to Italy. When his plane landed there, the Italians arrested Luciano, but released him soon after.

Lucky Luciano died on [January 26, 1962](#), of a heart attack at the [Naples, Italy](#) airport while picking up movie producer [Martin Gosch](#).

Martin Gosch had helped Luciano write an autobiographical screenplay, but the Mafia Commission wouldn't allow the film to be made. Gosch along with [Richard Hammer](#) used the screenplay to write the book, "The Last Testament of Lucky Luciano" in 1975.

Luciano's longtime associate and eventual nemesis, Vito Genovese, died a natural death in the Atlanta Federal Penitentiary in [1969](#). Ironically, Luciano and Genovese ended up being buried 100 feet from each other in the same cemetery in New York.

[[edit](#)] Havana Conference Attendees

Main article: [List of Havana Conference invitees](#)

[[edit](#)] Hosts

- [Charlie "Lucky" Luciano](#), Luciano Family boss, Charter Commission member, chairman and co-founder, de facto boss of bosses.
- [Meyer "The Brain" Lansky](#), Jewish Syndicate boss, a top financial and gambling operations advisor for the Italian mafia in America and casino operations front man (Las Vegas, Cuba, Bahamas)

[[edit](#)] New York-New Jersey Delegation

- [Frank "The Prime Minister" Costello](#), Luciano Family acting boss, Commission member.
- [Quarico "Willie Moore" Moretti](#), Luciano Family Underboss.
- [Albert "The Mad Hatter" Anastasia](#), Mangano Family Underboss and future boss.
- [Joseph "Joe Bananas" Bonanno](#), Bonanno Family boss, charter Commission member.
- [Gaetano "Tommy Brown" Lucchese](#), Gagliano Family Underboss and future boss.
- [Giuseppe "The Old Man" Profaci](#), Profaci Family boss, charter Commission member.
- [Giuseppe "Fat Joe" Magliocco](#), Profaci Family Underboss.
- [Vito "Don Vito" Genovese](#), Luciano Family caporegime and future boss.
- [Giuseppe "Joe Adonis" Doto](#), Luciano Family caporegime.
- [Anthony "Little Augie Pisano" Carfano](#), Luciano Family caporegime.
- [Michele "Big Mike" Miranda](#), Luciano Family caporegime and future Consigliere.

[[edit](#)] Chicago Delegation

- [Anthony "Joe Batters" Accardo](#), Chicago Outfit boss, Commission member.
- [Charles "Trigger Happy" Fischetti](#), Chicago Outfit Consigliere.
- [Rocco Fischetti](#), Chicago Outfit Lieutenant.

[[edit](#)] Buffalo Delegation

- [Stefano "The Undertaker" Magaddino](#), Buffalo Family boss, charter Commission member.

[[edit](#)] New Orleans Delegation

- [Carlos "Little Man" Marcello](#), New Orleans Family boss (some mob historians dispute his position at this time).

[[edit](#)] Tampa Delegation

- [Santo "Louie Santos" Trafficante Jr.](#), Tampa Family caporegime, moved to Havana in 1946 to oversee La Cosa Nostra and Tampa Family casino and business interests, future Tampa Family boss.

[[edit](#)] Jewish Syndicate Delegation

- [Abner "Longy" Zwillman](#), New Jersey Jewish Syndicate boss, National Syndicate Commission member.
- [Morris "Moe" Dalitz](#), Cleveland Jewish Syndicate boss, casino front man (Desert Inn, Las Vegas)
- [Joseph "Doc" Stacher](#), New Jersey Jewish Syndicate boss, casino front man (Sands Hotel, Las Vegas)
- [Philip "Dandy Phil" Kastel](#), Jewish Syndicate boss, Frank Costello's Louisiana slots operations and Tropicana Casino, Las Vegas partner.

[[edit](#)] Sidenote

While Luciano knew that Vito Genovese had tipped of the U.S. government to his whereabouts in Cuba, he did not live to find out was that it was "Joe Bananas" Bonanno who tipped off the New York City papers to Luciano's whereabouts in Cuba in February 1947. Joseph Bonanno was a very respected and feared Don

who was also ruthless and very ambitious and always had aspired to being crowned "Capo di tutti Capi", "boss of bosses" just like his former boss and mentor [Salvatore Maranzano](#). This information of Joseph Bonanno's treachery was picked up by former F.B.I. agent William Roemer, who was given the information by several of his former F.B.I. colleagues. Bill Roemer details this on pages 132-42 in his 1990 book, *War of the Godfathers*.

[\[edit\]](#) **In Fiction**

The film *[The Godfather Part II](#)* has an "homage" to the Havana Conference when [Michael Corleone](#) travels to Havana to have a meeting with several other mob bosses.

[\[edit\]](#) **References**

- Cook, Fred. *Mafia*. Fawcett Gold Medal, 1973.
- Gage, Nicholas. *Mafia U.S.A.* Dell Publishing Company, 1972.
- Gosch, Martin. & Hammer, Richard. *The Last Testament of Lucky Luciano*. Dell Publishing Company, 1974.
- Hammer, Richard. *Playboy's Illustrated History of Organized Crime*. Playboy Press, 1975.
- Maclean, Don. *Pictorial History of the Mafia*. Pyramid Books, 1974.
- Reid, Ed. *Mafia, Cosa Nostra, Syndicate*. Random House, 1954.
- Repetto, Thomas. *The American Mafia: A History of Its Rise to Power*. Henry Holt & Company, 2004.
- Roemer, William. *War of the Godfathers*. Ivy Books, 1990.
- Sifakis, Carl. *The Mafia Encyclopedia* (2nd edition). Checkmark Books, 1999.
- Sondern Jr., Frederic. *Brotherhood of Evil: The Mafia*. Manor Books, 1972.

 **This article needs additional [citations](#) for [verification](#).**
Please help [improve this article](#) by adding [reliable references](#). Unsourced material may be [challenged](#) and removed. *(April 2007)*

[\[edit\]](#) **External links**

 [Cuba portal](#)

- [CrimeMagazine: Havana Conference – 1946](#) by Allan May

Retrieved from "http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Havana_Conference"
Categories: [Havana](#) | [Mafia meetings](#) | [American Mafia events](#)
Hidden categories: [Cleanup from November 2006](#) | [All pages needing cleanup](#) | [Articles needing additional references from April 2007](#)

Views

- [Article](#)
- [Discussion](#)
- [Edit this page](#)
- [History](#)

Personal tools

- [Log in / create account](#)

Kefauver hearings

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Jump to: [navigation](#), [search](#)



Please help **[improve this article or section](#)** by **expanding it**. Further information might be found on the [talk page](#) or at [requests for expansion](#). *(January 2008)*



This article or section is in need of attention from an expert on the subject.

Please help recruit one or [improve this article](#) yourself. See the [talk page](#) for details. Please consider using {{[Expert-subject](#)}} to associate this request with a [WikiProject](#)



This article does not [cite](#) any [references or sources](#).

Please help [improve this article](#) by adding citations to [reliable sources](#). [Unverifiable](#) material may be challenged and removed. *(January 2007)*



[Frank Costello](#) testifying before the committee

Between 1950 and 1951, the **Kefauver Committee**, officially the *Senate Special Committee to Investigate Crime in Interstate Commerce*, held all of America's attention. It was the first committee made up of senators from around the country organized to not only gain a better understanding of how to fight [organized crime](#), but also to expose organized crime for the conglomerate empire that it was.

Headed by [Estes Kefauver](#), the committee traveled the country, investigating all levels of corruption.

After the hearings were complete, the committee offered many suggestions on how to better tighten the laws surrounding organized crime. Although some of these suggestions were implemented, it did little to deter the [National Crime Syndicate](#) from existing. It did however force [J. Edgar Hoover](#) to admit that an Underworld existed, a fact he and the FBI had long denied and ignored.

As for the Syndicate, they had lost valuable members of their empire after the hearings due to either death or deportation. [Willie Moretti](#), who had supplied considerable comic relief during the hearings was executed as a result of his candid testimony during the hearings in fear that he was becoming mentally unstable and would potentially reveal secrets of the Syndicate. [Joe Adonis](#) agreed to be deported to Italy to avoid prison and [Frank Costello](#)'s power in the underworld was so damaged that he would later step down from boss of his family to avoid further attempts on his life by [Vito Genovese](#).

Kefauver became a national hero for exhibiting not only his adept questioning skills of crime figures, but for his low key approach to dealing with them. He was called "Lincolnesque" for the quality of his words and seen as an "everyman" struggling against the corruption surrounding him.

Also, Frank Costello added the famous "hand ballet" to the Kefauver Committee. Agreeing to appear at the hearings on the condition that his face would not appear on television, the cameras were forced to focus only on his hands, which he kept constantly moving, entertaining many while still revealing nothing of himself.

[[edit](#)] References and further reading

- Doherty, Thomas (2005). *Cold War, Cool Medium: Television, McCarthyism, and American Culture*. Columbia University Press. [ISBN 0-231-12953-X](#).

[[edit](#)] External links

- [Kefauver Hearings, Kansas City 1950 Photographs in the Western Historical Manuscript Collection at the University of Missouri-St. Louis](#)

Retrieved from "http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kefauver_hearings"

Categories: [American Mafia events](#) | [Investigations and hearings of the United States Congress](#)

Hidden categories: [Articles to be expanded since January 2008](#) | [All articles to be expanded](#) | [Pages needing expert attention](#) | [Uncategorized pages needing expert attention](#) | [Articles lacking sources from January 2007](#) | [All articles lacking sources](#)

Views

- [Article](#)
- [Discussion](#)
- [Edit this page](#)
- [History](#)

Personal tools

- [Log in / create account](#)

Navigation

- [Main page](#)
- [Contents](#)
- [Featured content](#)
- [Current events](#)
- [Random article](#)

Search

Interaction

- [About Wikipedia](#)
- [Community portal](#)
- [Recent changes](#)
- [Contact Wikipedia](#)
- [Donate to Wikipedia](#)
- [Help](#)

Toolbox

Apalachin Meeting

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Jump to: [navigation](#), [search](#)



This article needs additional [citations](#) for [verification](#).

Please help [improve this article](#) by adding [reliable references](#). Unsourced material may be [challenged](#) and removed. *(April 2007)*



This article may require [cleanup](#) to meet Wikipedia's [quality standards](#).

Please [improve this article](#) if you can. *(December 2006)*

The **Apalachin Meeting** was a historic [summit](#) of the [American Mafia](#) held on [November 14, 1957](#) at the home of mobster [Joseph "Joe the Barber" Barbara](#) in [Apalachin, New York](#).

It was attended by roughly 100 mafia crime bosses from the United States, Canada and Italy. Expensive cars with license plates from around the country aroused the curiosity of the local and state law enforcement, who raided the meeting, causing mafiosi to flee into the woods and the surrounding area of the Apalachin estate. Over 60 underworld bosses were detained and indicted due to the disastrous meeting.

The direct and most significant outcome of the Apalachin meeting was that it helped to confirm the existence of a [National Crime Syndicate](#), which some - including [J. Edgar Hoover](#), head of the [Federal Bureau of Investigations](#) - had long refused to acknowledge.^{[[1](#)]}

Contents

[[hide](#)]

- [1 Vito Genovese' rise to power](#)
- [2 New York and the Commission](#)
- [3 The cold war escalates](#)
- [4 Genovese's final grab for power](#)
- [5 Apalachin meeting agenda](#)
- [6 La Cosa Nostra exposed](#)
- [7 Conspiracy theory](#)
- [8 The fall of Joseph Barbara](#)
- [9 Participants](#)
 - [9.1 Mafiosi detained and indicted at Apalachin summit 14 November 1957](#)
 - [9.2 Mafiosi suspected of attending Apalachin Summit 14 November 1957](#)
 - [9.3 Other suspected attendants](#)
- [10 In popular culture](#)
- [11 References](#)
- [12 Further reading](#)
- [13 External links](#)

[[edit](#)] Vito Genovese' rise to power

Living in [Naples, Italy](#) in 1946, at the end of [World War II](#), Boss [Vito "Don Vito" Genovese](#), who had fled New York from a 1937 murder indictment was arrested and returned to the United States to face trial, but

was eventually released due to the fact that the only witness to the murder, [Peter LaTempa](#), was himself murdered in his jail cell while awaiting the trial. After his release, Vito Genovese began competing with [Frank "The Prime Minister" Costello](#) for control over the biggest and most powerful underworld crime family, La Cosa Nostra's [Luciano Family](#) of New York. Once Genovese had control of the Luciano Family, his intentions were to take control of the Commission and La Cosa Nostra, but to do this he had to remove the long established "Conservative Faction" or old guard mafia, which controlled the Commission.

The Commission's "Conservative Faction" of Bosses Bonanno-Profaci-Mangano-Gagliano-Magaddino had exerted a major influence over La Cosa Nostra's politics, policies and rules since the Commission's formation in 1931 and had dominated since the 1936 imprisonment of Boss and criminal powerhouse, [Salvatore "Charlie Lucky" Luciano](#). By 1951 the New York underworld and the Commission were experiencing a change in the mafia that caused the formation of factions and infighting amongst the Bosses. By 1957 the new "Liberal Faction" had gained enough power and influence to rival the old mafia power structure and decided to make a grab for control of the Commission and La Cosa Nostra.

At the head of this new faction was Boss Vito Genovese and his allies [Gaetano Lucchese](#) and [Carlo Gambino](#). The events and conflicts perpetrated by Genovese and his allies from 1951 through 1957, such as the assassination of five New York mafia bosses were designed to bring about a power change in the New York underworld and the Commission, but in 1957 the change was leading to a war in La Cosa Nostra and a solution was necessary. Genovese, who now controlled the most powerful Family in La Cosa Nostra, called for a national meeting of Bosses from around the country. Genovese elected Buffalo Boss and Commission member, Stefano "The Undertaker" Magaddino, who in turn chose Northeastern, Pennsylvania crime boss Joseph Barbara and his Underboss [Rosario "Russell" Bufalino](#) to oversee all the arrangements for the important meeting.

[[edit](#)] New York and the Commission

The Commission's "Conservative Faction" began its decline and loss of power in La Cosa Nostra with the 1951 alliance of Bosses [Frank Costello](#), [Albert Anastasia](#) and [Anthony Accardo](#). The Commission's Costello-Anastasia-Accardo faction, along with their allies began the rise of the new "Liberal Faction" over La Cosa Nostra's "old guard" of mafia bosses. The old guard mafia bosses consisted of mafiosi born in Sicily who were determined to obtain power, influence and profit by following the old world traditions and principles of the mafia, while the new "Liberal Faction" was made up of the Americanized bosses whose sole purpose was to obtain power, influence and profit through any means necessary. The old guards traditional mafia values had no place in the new mafia's future and this began a "cold war" among New York's mafia powers.

The new "Liberal Faction" began its rise to power with the 1951 disappearance of Boss and "Conservative Faction" member, [Vincenzo "Don Vincent" Mangano](#) and the assassination of his "Substituto" Underboss and brother, [Philip Mangano](#), which placed Underboss, [Albert "The Mad Hatter" Anastasia](#) at the head of the Family and gave him a Commission seat. Also in 1951, mobster Vito Genovese began his plan to overthrow Boss [Frank Costello](#) and take control of the Luciano Family when he started campaigning to have Luciano Family Underboss and strong Costello ally, [Quarico "Willie Moore" Moretti](#) assassinated due to his advanced case of [syphilis](#) and his constant and wild conversations concerning La Cosa Nostra affairs. Vito Genovese's first move was accomplished in a New Jersey restaurant on [October 4, 1951](#), when Willie Moretti was assassinated for the greater good of La Cosa Nostra and Vito Genovese was promoted to Underboss of the Luciano Family.

[[edit](#)] The cold war escalates

The 1951 assassinations of the Mangano brothers and [Willie Moretti](#), along with [Albert Anastasia](#)'s elevation to Boss of the second largest crime family in the United States elevated the "cold war" in the New York underworld and the Commission to a new level. After these events the New York underworld split even further with the most powerful Bosses and mafiosi lining up against one another. With the loss of ally [Willie](#)

[Moretti](#), [Frank Costello](#) and [Albert Anastasia](#) lined up against the alliance of [Vito Genovese](#), [Tommy Lucchese](#) and their ally [Carlo Gambino](#).

The evident changes in the New York mafia led the Sicilian, conservative Bosses to believe that the new Americanized Bosses and their allies were preparing for a possible takeover, but for the time being the conservative Bosses watched and waited as present and future events played out in La Cosa Nostra. One of these events was the 1953 death of "Conservative Faction" and Commission member, [Gaetano Gagliano](#), leaving his successor, [Gaetano "Tommy Brown" Lucchese](#), as the new Family Boss and Commission member.

By 1957 only three of the five original conservative or old guard Bosses still had a Commission seat. The "Conservative Faction" of Bonanno-Profaci-Magaddino was losing power and influence to the "Liberal Faction" and knowing this "Conservative Faction" member, Magaddino secretly sided with the "Liberal Faction" against his former allies Joseph Bonanno and [Joseph "The Old Man" Profaci](#).

Luciano Family Underboss, [Vito Genovese](#) realized by 1957 that the mafia's political climate in New York and on the Commission was right for a power move. Genovese schemed with allies [Tommy Lucchese](#) and [Carlo Gambino](#) to remove [Frank Costello](#) and [Albert Anastasia](#) from power by assassinating them, thus allowing Genovese and Gambino to elevate themselves to the heads of their Families.

[\[edit\]](#) Genovese's final grab for power

Vito Genovese's final grab for total power and the domination of La Cosa Nostra came in 1957 with the removal of three of New York's most powerful mafia Bosses. On [May 2, 1957](#), Genovese gunman and protégé, [Vincent "Chin" Gigante](#) tried to kill [Luciano Family](#) Boss [Frank Costello](#) in the lobby of his Manhattan apartment building, but botched the hit, leaving Costello with only a minor scalp/head wound. Costello got the message and sent word to [Vito Genovese](#) that he would step down as Boss of the Luciano Family and retire with his gambling interests.

The following month, Anastasia Family Underboss and Luciano/Costello ally, [Frank "Don Cheech" Scalise](#) was assassinated on [June 17, 1957](#) by Anastasia nephew and gunman, [Vincent "Jimmy/Jerome" Squillante](#). Past underworld reasons for [Frank Scalise](#)'s murder range from a botched heroin shipment, to his sale of La Cosa Nostra memberships for \$50,000 with his Boss, [Albert Anastasia](#), but whatever the truth, the hit was most likely sanctioned by Anastasia, reinforced by Anastasia being Squillante's Boss and the only one who could sanction him as the shooter.

Genovese and his allies used the Scalise hit and Anastasia's attempt to muscle into the [Havana, Cuba](#) casino operations of Jewish Boss [Meyer Lansky](#) and his partner, Florida Boss [Santo Trafficante, Jr.](#) as another example of Anastasia's madness and a reason to kill him. On [October 25, 1957](#), in the barber shop of Manhattan's Park Sheraton Hotel, Costello ally [Albert "The Mad Hatter" Anastasia](#) was shot and killed by two masked gunmen sent by Bosses Vito Genovese, Carlo Gambino and Joseph Profaci, who was also an Anastasia rival in Brooklyn. Vito Genovese was now Boss of the [Genovese Family](#) and a Commission member, making him the most powerful Boss in La Cosa Nostra.

The make up of the Commission would keep on changing, strengthening the "Liberal Faction" even more throughout the years. In 1957, Chicago mafioso, [Salvatore "Sam Mooney" Giancana](#) was elected to replace former Chicago Outfit Boss and Commission member, [Anthony "Joe Batters" Accardo](#), giving the new "Liberal Faction" another strong ally. By 1960, two more Bosses who had achieved great power in La Cosa Nostra, [Joseph "Joe Z." Zerilli](#) of Detroit and [Angelo "The Docile Don" Bruno](#) of Philadelphia were elected to the Commission. They were both new to the National La Cosa Nostra political arena and naturally sided with one of the two factions. Detroit Boss [Joseph Zerilli](#) was related by marriage to New York crime boss Joseph Profaci, Zerilli's son having married Profaci's daughter gave the Detroit Boss great reason to side with the "Conservative Faction", while Philadelphia Boss Angelo Bruno was close to New York Boss [Carlo Gambino](#) and his friend and in law, New York Boss [Tommy Lucchese](#). Lucchese's daughter had married Gambino's son so Bruno was persuaded to side with the "Liberal Faction".

The 1959 imprisonment of Boss Vito Genovese, along with the 1962 death of Joseph Profaci and the 1968 banishment of Joseph Bonanno from New York all led to the eventual elevation of [Carlo Gambino](#) to the de facto position of *Boss of Bosses* in New York until his death in 1976.

[\[edit\]](#) Apalachin meeting agenda

Powerful mafiosi from all over the United States, Canada and Italy convened at the [Apalachin, New York](#) estate of Northeastern Pennsylvania mafia boss Joseph Barbara to socialize and resolve the mafia affairs in New York and La Cosa Nostra operations such as gambling, casinos and narcotics dealing.

The Scalise and Anastasia murders were topics of great importance that needed immediate attention, since men in the Anastasia Family still loyal to the Anastasia/Scalise regime such as the powerful caporegimes [Aniello "The Lamb" Dellacroce](#) and [Armand "Tommy" Rava](#) were about to go to war against [Vito Genovese](#) and his allies. It hadn't been just the Genovese-Lucchese-Gambino alliance that wanted to see Albert Anastasia dead.

Some of the most powerful Cosa Nostra Bosses throughout the country, such as Tampa Family boss Santo Trafficante, Jr., Northeastern Family Underboss Rosario "Russell" Bufalino, New Orleans Family Boss Carlos "Little Man" Marcello and even Jewish Boss and mafia financier, Meyer Lansky, worried about Anastasia's attempts to muscle in on their Havana casino operations just before the Commission sanctioned his assassination. In fact, Cuba, was one of the Apalachin meetings topics of discussion, particularly La Cosa Nostra's gambling and narcotics smuggling interests on the island. The international narcotics trade was also an important topic on the Apalachin agenda. Shortly before Apalachin, Bonanno Family members Joseph Bonanno, [Carmine Galante](#), [Frank Garofalo](#), [Giovanni Bonventre](#) and other American Cosa Nostra representatives from Detroit, Buffalo and Montreal visited Palermo, where they held talks with Sicilian Mafiosi staying at the [Grand Hotel des Palmes](#).

The New York Garment Industry interests and rackets, such as loansharking to the business owners and control of garment center trucking were other important topics on the Apalachin agenda. The outcome of the discussions concerning the garment industry in New York would have a direct and in some cases an indirect effect on the business interests of some of the other Bosses around the country, mainly those interests in garment manufacturing, trucking, labor and unions, which brought in large incomes for the Families involved. Thus all in all, the state of American Mafia affairs was to be discussed at this meeting, leaving no debates or questions as to who would now be leading the new "Liberal Mafia", controlling and enforcing its national rules and policies.

[\[edit\]](#) La Cosa Nostra exposed

On [November 14, 1957](#), the bosses, their advisors, and many bodyguards (about a hundred men in all) met at Barbara's 53-acre estate in Apalachin to discuss these issues. Apalachin is a small place located about 200 miles west of [New York City](#) along the south shore of the [Susquehanna River](#) not far from the Pennsylvania border.

Barbara had been harassed by the local small town cops for a while after moving to the rural upstate region of New York. A local state trooper named [Edgar D. Croswell](#) had been aware that a guest had visited Barbara's estate the previous year; state troopers had pulled over [Carmine Galante](#) as he drove away from Barbara's house in 1956, and they had found that Galante was not only driving without a license, but he had an extensive criminal record in New York City.

In the time immediately preceding the November 1957 meeting, Croswell had become obsessed with the goings on there, and became aware that Barbara's son was reserving rooms in local hotels. That made Croswell suspicious, and he therefore decided to keep an eye on Barbara's house. When the state police found many luxury cars parked at Barbara's home, they began taking down license plate numbers. Having

found that many of these cars were registered to known criminals, state police reinforcements came to the scene and began to set up a roadblock. Since no crime was being committed, this was overdoing it, but gangsters made it worse, by fleeing.

Having barely started their meeting, [Bartolo Guccia](#) a [Castellammare del Golfo](#) native and Joe Barbara employee (with a criminal record) spotted the roadblock while leaving Barbara's estate. Guccia would later state he was returning to the Barbara home to check on a fish order. Some attendees attempted to drive away but were stopped by the roadblock. Others trudged through the fields and woods, ruining their expensive suits and tossing guns and cash away in case they were caught. Locals reported finding \$100 bills scattered about the countryside for months afterwards.

Up to fifty men escaped, but fifty-eight were apprehended, including Commission members Vito Genovese, Carlo Gambino, Joseph Profaci and Joseph Bonanno. Virtually all of them claimed they had heard Joseph Barbara was feeling ill and that they just had popped in to see him and wish him well. Everyone thought it very curious that so many men of [Italian](#) descent from various cities, the majority with criminal records, should happen to be all gathering at one place at the same time, but as no crime had been committed the men who were caught were all eventually released.

It was a great embarrassment to La Cosa Nostra and also to the [FBI](#). Long-time FBI director [J. Edgar Hoover](#) had denied the existence of a "National Crime Syndicate" and the need to address organized crime in America . After the Apalachin Summit, Hoover could no longer deny the National Crime Syndicate's existence and its influence on the North American underworld, as well as La Cosa Nostra's overall control and influence of the Syndicate's many branches throughout North America and abroad.

After the Apalachin Meeting, J. Edgar Hoover created the "Top Hoodlum Program" and went after the National Crime Syndicate's and La Cosa Nostra's top Bosses throughout the country. Many of the National Crime Syndicate's most powerful Bosses such as Vito Genovese, Joseph Bonanno, Sam "Momo" Giancana, Stefano Magaddino, Frank Costello, Carlos Marcello, Meyer Lansky, Abner "Longy" Zwillman and [Philip "Dandy Phil" Kastel](#) just to name a few, found themselves with greater law enforcement scrutiny, indictments and grand jury subpoenas being handed down.

[\[edit\]](#) Conspiracy theory

Some law enforcement members and mob historians throughout the years since the historic Apalachin Summit debacle, believe that the 3 senior mob members that were absent for the meeting, namely Charles Luciano, Frank Costello and Meyer Lansky conspired with each other to tip off the Apalachin and state law enforcement officials who raided Joseph Barbara's estate and discovered the existence of a National Crime Syndicate. No matter what the state of the affairs of the National Crime Syndicate or Cosa Nostra at the time of the Apalachin Summit, good or bad, may it be peace, war or otherwise, most mob watchers would never believe that two men such as Charlie "Lucky" Luciano and Frank Costello would ever break their vows of "Omerta" or betray their fellow Bosses and allies who were present at Apalachin on [November 14, 1957](#).

The facts were that Vito Genovese had stripped Frank Costello of leadership in the Luciano Family and further placed the exiled Charlie Luciano near the last vestiges of power and prestige that he maintained throughout the National Crime Syndicate and Cosa Nostra. Never again would Luciano regain the total domination of the so-called National Crime Syndicate and Cosa Nostra without a powerful Family and soldiers behind him, but no matter in what position of underworld power these two men found themselves in, they would never purposely try to destroy what they built from the beginning, together with their childhood friends, the most powerful criminal organisation in North America. Also Luciano and Costello were in awkward positions, Charlie "Lucky" Luciano having been deported to Italy in 1946 and not allowed back into the U.S. and Frank Costello recently being shot and stripped of power on Vito Genovese's orders, could not attend the Apalachin Summit, but they had contacted an old friend and ally [Frank "The Cheeseman" Cucchiara](#), the New England Patriarca Family Consigliere who was representing his Boss [Raymond "El Padrone" Patriarca, Sr.](#), but also agreed to represent Luciano's and Costello's interests at the summit as well.

As far as Meyer Lansky not being present at Apalachin, it is known that he and [Joseph "Doc" Stacher](#) declined to go, but were invited to discuss the state of casino operations in Las Vegas and Cuba, since they were two of the operation's investors and overseers. The idea of a setup is somewhat plausible, but since the most important and powerful Jewish National Syndicate Bosses such as [Abner "Longy" Zwillman](#), [Philip "Dandy Phil" Kastel](#) and [Morris "Moe" Dalitz](#) along with Lansky and Stacher (who were all present at the 1946 "Havana Conference" in Cuba) were not present for this summit, it seems reasonable to assume that the Apalachin Summit was strictly a Cosa Nostra gathering that had no importance for the other National Crime Syndicate Bosses concerning national rules, policies or joint operations.

[\[edit\]](#) The fall of Joseph Barbara

The Apalachin Summit meeting brought Northeastern Family Boss Joseph Barbara nothing but total aggravation and humiliation. The aggravation was brought on by the subsequent raid on his home by law enforcement authorities and the humiliation was reaped upon him by the arrest and indictment of 58 Cosa Nostra Bosses that were guaranteed the meeting would be safe and secure at the Barbara estate.

This should have been another honor on Joseph Barbara's Cosa Nostra career since Barbara had hosted a previous national meeting the year before with no problems whatsoever, but Barbara had warned Buffalo Boss Stefano Magaddino that he was not comfortable with holding the meeting at his estate once more. Stefano Magaddino and Vito Genovese were the Commission members who called for the meeting once the [Albert Anastasia](#) assassination took place, Magaddino wanted to play the big shot and hold the meeting on one of his close allies territories so he could quietly show that his power and influence had made the meeting and its important agenda a success, but his vanity and pride backfired.

Fellow Castellamarese Clan members Joseph Barbara and Joseph Bonanno had warned Stefano Magaddino that it was not a good idea to hold the meeting in the same venue as the last year. Joseph Barbara warned Magaddino that he and a local cop by the name of Croswell disliked each other very much and that the cop might cause problems if he discovered the meeting, but Magaddino said it was too late to call it off because all the arrangements had been made and the invitees were already en route.

After the raid, arrests and indictments, many of the Bosses held Buffalo crime boss Stefano Magaddino and Vito Genovese responsible for all the trouble that surrounded Cosa Nostra after Apalachin. Some time after the publicity and heat from law enforcement subsided there was an attempt made on the life of Stefano Magaddino for his unforgivable mistake. Magaddino lived in one of several "Mafia Row" houses on Dana Drive in the Buffalo suburb of [Lewiston, New York](#). The houses were owned by Magaddino and his sons-in-law [James V. LaDuca](#), [Charles A. Montana](#) and [Vincent Scro](#) who were all "made" members of his crime Family. In the attempt on his life a grenade was tossed through the window of his home, it failed to detonate, but the message was sent.

Joseph Barbara, who stood to gain prestige and glory had the meeting concluded successfully, instead found himself harassed by law enforcement and indicted for not revealing to a grand jury what exactly occurred at his home on November 14, 1957. Barbara's business interests even took a beating, he lost his lucrative bottling contract with [Canada Dry](#). Joseph Barbara's health continued to deteriorate and he finally died of a heart-attack on [June 17, 1959](#). His old estate was sold, and for a time, used for sightseeing tours. It has since been resold again, and the ranch style home is believed to have owners with no mafia ties.

[\[edit\]](#) Participants

Over 100 powerful mafiosi and Cosa Nostra members were allegedly present at the historic Apalachin meeting and debacle. 58 were detained and indicted by law enforcement, including some of the biggest names in the underworld.

[[edit](#)] Mafiosi detained and indicted at Apalachin summit [14 November 1957](#)

- **Joseph "The Barber" Barbara** - Northeastern Barbara Family Boss and Summit host, Apalachin, N.Y.
- [Rosario "Russell" Bufalino](#) - Northeastern Family Underboss and Summit organizer ([Kingston, Pennsylvania](#), future Northeastern Boss)
- [Dominick Alaimo](#) - Northeastern Barbara Family Caporegime ([Pittston, Pennsylvania](#))
- [Angelo J. Sciandra](#) - Northeastern Barbara Family Caporegime ([Pittston, Pennsylvania](#))
- [Ignatius Cannone](#) - Northeastern Barbara Family Caporegime ([Endwell, New York](#))
- [Anthony "The Gov" Guarnieri](#) - Northeastern Barbara Family Soldier ([Johnson City, New York](#), future Caporegime)
- [James "Dave" Ostico](#) - Northeastern Barbara Family Caporegime ([Pittston, Pennsylvania](#), future Underboss)
- [Pasquale "Patsy" Turrigiano](#) - Northeastern Barbara Family Caporegime ([Endicott, New York](#))
- [Emanuel "Manny" Zicari](#) - Northeastern Barbara Family Caporegime ([Endicott, New York](#)], Barbara's bottling plant manager)
- [Salvatore "Vicious" Trivalino](#) - Northeastern Barbara Family Soldier ([Auburn, New York](#))
- [Pasquale "Patsy" Monachino](#) - Northeastern Barbara Family Soldier ([Auburn, New York](#))
- [Pasquale "Patsy" Sciortino](#) - Northeastern Barbara Family Soldier ([Auburn, New York](#))
- [Bartolo "Bart" Guccia](#) - Northeastern Barbara Family Associate ([Endicott, New York](#), Barbara estate overseer and handyman)
- [Joseph "Joe Bananas" Bonanno](#) - N.Y. Bonanno Family Boss ([Long Island, New York](#)) present Commission chairman, 1951-64)
- [Giovanni "John" Bonventre](#) - N.Y. Bonanno Family Caporegime ([Brooklyn, New York](#)) former Underboss, semi-retired in Sicily)
- [Anthony "Tony" Riela](#) - N.Y. Bonanno Family Caporegime ([West Orange, New Jersey](#), faction leader)
- [Natale "Joe Diamonds" Evola](#) - N.Y. Bonanno Family Caporegime ([Brooklyn, New York](#), future Boss)
- [Vito "Don Vito" Genovese](#) - N.Y. Genovese Family Boss ([Atlantic Highlands, New Jersey](#))
- [Gerardo "Jerry" Catena](#) - N.Y. Genovese Family Underboss ([Orange, New Jersey](#), faction leader)
- [Michele "Big Mike" Miranda](#) - N.Y. Genovese Family Consigliere (Forest Hills, New York]])
- [Salvatore "Charles" Chiri](#) - N.Y. Genovese Family Caporegime ([Bergen, New Jersey](#), faction leader)
- [Carlo "Don Carlo" Gambino](#) - N.Y. Gambino Family Boss ([Brooklyn, New York](#))
- [Joseph "Staten Island Joe" Riccobono](#) - N.Y. Gambino Family Consigliere ([Staten Island, New York](#))
- [Paul "Big Paul" Castellano](#) - N.Y. Gambino Family Caporegime (Brooklyn, N.Y., future Boss)
- [Carmine "The Doctor" Lombardo](#) - N.Y. Gambino Family Caporegime (Brooklyn, N.Y.)
- [Armand "Tommy" Rava](#) - N.Y. Gambino Family Caporegime (Brooklyn, N.Y., an Albert Anastasia loyalist who was killed soon after the Apalachin meeting)
- [Vincent "Nunzio" Rao](#) - N.Y. Lucchese Family Consigliere (Yonkers, N.Y.)
- [Giovanni "Big John" Ormento](#) - N.Y. Lucchese Family Caporegime ([Lido Beach, New York](#))
- [Emilio "Button Man" Buttoni](#) - N.Y. Lucchese Family Caporegime ([Jackson Heights, New York](#))
- [Joseph "Don Peppino" Profaci](#) - N.Y. Profaci Family Boss ([Long Island, New York](#))
- [Joseph "Fat Joe/Joe Malyak" Magliocco](#) - N.Y. Profaci Family Underboss ([East Islip, New York](#), successor to Profaci)
- [Salvatore "Sam" Tornabe](#) - N.Y. Profaci Family Caporegime (New York, N.Y., died [December 30, 1957](#))
- [Frank Majuri](#) - N.J. DeCavalcante Family Underboss (Elizabeth, N.J., Amari regime Underboss, stepped down May 1957, then Underboss in DeCavalcante regime)
- [Louis "Fat Lou" LaRasso](#) - N.J. DeCavalcante Family Underboss (Linden, New Jersey]], Delmore regime Underboss as of May, 1957)
- [John C. Montana](#) - Buffalo Magaddino Family Underboss ([Olean, New York](#), He was the #2 man in the crime family during Magaddino's regime. Montana was put on the shelf by Magaddino around 1958, Magaddino felt betrayed by Montana who wanted to step down after all the publicity from Apalachin)
- [Antonino "Nino" Magaddino](#) - Buffalo Magaddino Family Caporegime ([Niagara Falls, New York](#), future Consigliere)
- [Rosario "Roy" Carlisi](#) - Buffalo Magaddino Family Caporegime (Buffalo, N.Y., brother of future Chicago Outfit Boss Sam "Wings" Carlisi)
- [James "Jimmy" LaDuca](#) - Buffalo Magaddino Family Caporegime (Lewiston, N.Y., Magaddino son in

- law)
- [Samuel "Sam" Lagattuta](#) - Buffalo Magaddino Family Caporegime (Buffalo, N.Y.)
- [Dominick D'Agostino](#) - Buffalo Magaddino Family Caporegime (Niagara Falls, N.Y.)
- [Frank Valenti](#) - Rochester Valenti Family Underboss (Rochester, N.Y., Pittsburgh Family Soldier)
- [Constenze "Stanley" Valenti](#) - Rochester Valenti Family Boss (Rochester, N.Y., Pittsburgh Family Soldier)
- [Joseph Falcone](#) - Buffalo or Rochester Family member (Utica, N.Y. faction leader, possibly a Buffalo family caporegime)
- [Salvatore Falcone](#) - Buffalo or Rochester Family member (Utica, N.Y. faction leader, Joseph's brother and second in command, Buffalo family soldier)
- [Rosario "Roy" Mancuso](#) - Buffalo or Rochester Family member (Utica, N.Y. faction member, Buffalo family soldier)
- [Michael "Mike" Genovese](#) - Pittsburgh LaRocca Family Caporegime (Gibsonia, Pennsylvania, future Boss)
- [Gabriel "Kelly" Mannarino](#) - Pittsburgh LaRocca Family Caporegime (New Kensington, Pennsylvania, future Underboss)
- [Joseph "Joe" Ida](#) - Philadelphia Bruno Family Boss (Highland Park, N.J., fled to Sicily in 1957 after Apalachin, leaving Antonio "Mr. Miggs" Polina as Acting Boss. Stepped down as Boss in 1959 due to publicity, retired to Sicily leaving Angelo Bruno as his successor)
- [Dominick Olivetto](#) - Philadelphia Bruno Family Underboss (Camden, N.J., faction leader, stepped down 1959 for new regime)
- [John Scalish](#) - Cleveland Scalish Family Boss (Cleveland, Ohio)
- [John DeMarco](#) - Cleveland Scalish Family Consigliere (Shaker Heights, Ohio)
- [Frank "The Cheeseman" Cucchiara](#) - New England Patriarca Family Consigliere (Boston, Massachusetts, representative of Raymond Patriarca Sr., Charlie "Lucky" Luciano and Frank "The Prime Minister" Costello at Summit)
- [Frank Zito](#) - Springfield, Illinois Zito Family Boss (Chicago Outfit Caporegime)
- [Santo Trafficante Jr.](#) - Tampa Trafficante Family Boss (moved to Havana in 1946, Cuban operations overseer for the families, including casino and narcotics operations. Most powerful boss in Cuba)
- [Joseph "Joe" Civello](#) - Dallas Civello Family Boss (New Orleans Family caporegime, representative of New Orleans Boss Carlos "Little Man" Marcello. Dallas, Texas)
- [John Francis Colletti](#) - Dallas Civello Family member (Dallas, Texas)
- [James "Black Jim" Colletti](#) - Colorado Colletti Family Boss (Pueblo, Colorado)
- [Frank DeSimone](#) - Los Angeles Dragna Family Boss (Los Angeles, California, also lawyer and *house council* for Family members)
- [Simone Scozzari](#) Los Angeles Dragna Family Underboss (San Gabriel, California, came under law enforcement scrutiny after Apalachin. Deported to Italy in 1963)

[[edit](#)] Mafiosi suspected of attending Apalachin Summit [14 November 1957](#)

- [Carmine "Lilo" Galante](#) - Bonanno Family Underboss

Carmine Galante was one of the most important attendees at the Palermo, Sicily, Hotel des Palmes Summit the past [October 14-October 17](#) and would be important to the Apalachin Summit being that he was the U.S. La Cosa Nostra's Montreal "*representation*" for all narcotics operations being directed through the port city. Identified as a guest staying at the estate by Joe Barbara's housekeeper. Galante had also been stopped and arrested by Pennsylvania police on [October 17, 1956](#), allegedly coming from a meeting at Barbara's estate.

- [Frank "Frank Carrol" Garofalo](#) - Former Bonanno Family Underboss

Frank Garofalo was semi-retired in Sicily as of 1956 and came back specifically for the Apalachin Summit, having been one of the attendees at the Palermo, Sicily-Hotel des Palmes Summit the past [October 14-October 17](#) and would most certainly brief the Bosses on the outcome of the Palermo Summit. Garofalo was registered at a local motel.

- [Gaspar "Gasparino" DiGregorio](#) - Bonanno Family Caporegime

Brother-in-law of Buffalo Family Boss Stefano Magaddino, registered at local motel.

- [Joseph "Joe Bandy" Biondo](#) - Gambino Family Underboss

Former Albert Anastasia Consigliere, conspired to kill Anastasia with Carlo Gambino and Joseph Riccobono. Expected to explain the reasons for the Anastasia hit and the current situation between the new Anastasia/Gambino Family hierarchy and the faction still loyal to Anastasia.

- [Gaetano "Tommy Brown" Lucchese](#) and [Stefano "Steve" LaSalle](#) - Lucchese Family Boss and Underboss

1st and 2nd in command, Lucchese and his allies supported Carlo Gambino and his assassination of Albert Anastasia and ascension to Boss of the Family.

- [Aniello "Niel" Migliore](#) - Lucchese's top aide and was in a car accident driving through Binghamton the next day, [November 15](#). He was most likely on his way to pick up Lucchese and LaSalle.
- [Stefano "The Undertaker" Magaddino](#) - Buffalo Magaddino Family Boss

Commission member who helped Vito Genovese arrange the Summit at Barbara's house, his clothes contained his name in them when they were found in a car in Joseph Barbara's barn.

- [Salvatore "Momo" Giancana](#) and [Frank "Strongy" Ferraro](#) - Chicago Outfit Boss and Underboss

1st and 2nd in command, Sam Giancana was a Commission member and had just recently been promoted to Boss of the Outfit by former Boss and new Consigliere, Anthony "Joe Batters" Accardo. Giancana would take this opportunity to meet with all the other Family Bosses and introduce his new Underboss, Ferraro. Giancana was overheard just days after the Summit on an FBI wire talking to Stefano "The Undertaker" Magaddino about *"our guys being caught"* and *"that it wouldn't have happened in Chicago, we have a whole county locked up tight"*. Magaddino cowardly replied *"you bet it wouldn't have Sam"*.

- [Joseph "Joe Z." Zerilli](#) and [Anthony "Tony Jack" Giacalone](#) - [Detroit Partnership](#) Boss and Lt./Capo.

Joe Zerilli was not yet at the Barbara estate, he was late. he most likely noticed the roadblock on the way to the meeting or was still at the motel and heard what happened on the radio. He used his driver's license to rent a car in the Binghamton area and used it to get home on [November 14, 1957](#).

- [Nicholas "Nick" Civella](#) and [Joseph Filardo](#) - Kansas City Civella Family Boss and Capo

They were identified by a local business owner as the two men who used his phone to call a taxi.

- [James "Jimmy the Hat" Lanza](#) - San Francisco Abati/Lanza Underboss

2nd in command to Boss Michael Abati who at the time was fighting a deportation order, Lanza was registered at a local motel with San Jose Family Underboss, Joseph Cerrito. Mike Abati was deported on [July 8, 1961](#). Lanza becomes his successor and the Family's most famous Boss.

- [John Sebastian "John LaRock" LaRocca](#) - Pittsburgh LaRocca Family Boss

Registered at the local Arlington Motel with his 2 Capos, Michael Genovese and Gabriel "Kelly" Mannarino, their bills charged to Barbara's Canada Dry Bottling Company.

- [Joseph "Joe" Cerrito](#) - San Jose Cerrito Family Underboss

2nd in command to Boss Onofrio Sciortino who was ill, Cerrito was registered at a local motel with San Francisco Boss, James Lanza. Joe Cerrito becomes Boss of the Family after Sciortino's death in 1959.

- [Frank "Frankie Bal" Balistrieri](#) - Milwaukee Balistrieri Underboss

2nd in command, registered at a local motel. Family Boss, John Alioto was grooming his son-in-law, Frank Balistrieri, as his successor, Balistrieri uses the Apalachin Summit to introduce himself to all the Bosses from across the United States. In 1961 Alioto retired so Balistrieri could assume the top position. Frank "Frankie Bal" Balistrieri became Milwaukee's most famous underworld Boss.

- [Joseph Zammuto](#) - Rockford, Illinois Musso/Zammuto Family Underboss

2nd in command to Boss Antonio Musso who was ill, Zammuto was registered at a local motel. Tony Musso dies 1958 and Joe Zammuto becomes Boss of the Family. It is now called the Zammuto Family. The Rockford Family has always been a Chicago Outfit faction.

- [Charles "Curly" Montana](#) - Cleveland Scalish Family Caporegime

Curly Montana is registered at a local motel with Boss John Scalish.

- [Joseph "Joe" Campisi](#) - Dallas Civello Family Underboss

2nd in command, Joe Campisi is registered at a local motel with Boss Joe Civello, who was detained at Barbara's estate. Joe Campisi became the Family Boss after Joe Civello retires to Florida in 1968. Civello dies in 1970.

- [Vincenzo "Vince" Colletti](#) - Denver Colletti Family Underboss

2nd in command, Vincenzo is James "Black Jim" Colletti's brother. Vincenzo is registered with James at a local motel, he escapes the police at Barbara's estate, but his brother James is picked up walking down a road near the estate.

- [Alfred "Al" Angelicola](#) - New Jersey area La Cosa Nostra member

Al Angelicola is registered at a local motel with other known mafiosi, his Family affiliation is unknown.

- [Luigi "Louis" Greco](#) and [Giuseppe "Pep" Cotroni](#) - Montreal Cotroni Family Underboss and Caporegime

Louis Greco was a Montreal Sicilian who was 2nd in command to Calabrian Boss Vic "The Egg" Cotroni. In 1953 Greco and his top aide Frank Petrula go to Sicily to arrange heroin shipments with Charlie "Lucky" Luciano. Giuseppe "Pep" Cotroni was the brother of Boss Vic Cotroni and the Lt. in charge of narcotics operations for the Family. The Montreal Family was considered the Bonanno Family Canadian Faction. Joe Bonanno had just returned from the U.S.-Sicilian La Cosa Nostra Summit in Palermo, Sicily at the Hotel des Palmes on [October 14-October 17, 1957](#). One of the topics to be discussed at Apalachin was about the Sicilians taking control of the importation of narcotics while the U.S. La Cosa Nostra would handle wholesale distribution. Montreal is the North American transit way for narcotics shipments into the U.S., that's why Montreal had representatives at the Apalachin Summit.

- [Giuseppe "Don Giuseppe" Settacase](#) - Agrigento, Sicily Capo-familglia and future Capo-provincia (provincial Boss) in Sicilian Cupola (Commission).

Don Giuseppe Settacase was sent over as a representative of the Sicilian La Cosa Nostra Clans wishing to export narcotics to the United States. He was present at the Palermo, Sicily Summit on [14 October-17, 1957](#) and was highly respected as a mediator. Don Giuseppe Settacase mentor to the most powerful and wealthy Sicilian Clans in the Agrigento province and Sicilian La Cosa Nostra, the Siculiana-Caruana-Cuntrera Family and the Cattolica Eraclea-Rizzuto Family, who would become superpowers in the global narcotics and money laundering trade and rule mafia empires. After the Apalachin Summit, both the Canadian and Sicilian La Cosa Nostra were heard talking on R.C.M.P. and FBI wiretaps about how embarrassed the American La Cosa Nostra looked to their peers for the screw

up at Apalachin.

[[edit](#)] Other suspected attendants

- [Joseph Barbara, Jr.](#)

Northeastern Barbara family Soldier (son of Joseph Sr., Jr. had handled most of the guest's hotel registrations, he was on his way to his home and the meeting site, but noticed the road block, he was questioned soon after at his family's bottling plant, he transferred to the Detroit Family when his father died in 1959)

- [Anthony "Tony" Lopiparo](#), [Ralph "Shorty" Caleca](#), [Anthony "Tony G." Giordano](#) and [John "Johnny V." Vitale](#) - St. Louis Family leaders at the time of the meeting.

Lopiparo was originally a member of the Kansas City Family and came to St. Louis with their backing in the 1940s and became a crime boss soon afterward, he reigned until he died in 1960 and was succeeded by Tony Giordano. Lopiparo, Caleca, Giordano and Vitale were all top members of the St. Louis Family in the 1950s, Lopiparo and Caleca were the older, senior Family members and would most likely have sent a substitute to represent St. Louis at Apalachin in 1957. Giordano was sent to prison for 4 years in 1956 and was not available in 1957, Vitale was most likely the representative sent to Apalachin if St. Louis was represented.

- [Louis "Lew Farrell" Fratto](#) - Des Moines, Iowa crime boss (Chicago Outfit member and possible caporegime. A powerful and influential mobster, well known and respected, most likely an attendee due to his vast mid west interests).
- [Philip Buccola](#) - Former New England Family Boss based in Boston, Mass. from the mid 1920s until he retired and returned to Sicily in 1954. Buccola was regarded as a senior mafiosi and counselor who continued to make frequent trips to the United States to confer with various bosses. According to the Federal Bureau of Narcotics (F.B.N.) Buccola was directly involved with American and Sicilian mafiosi regarding joint narcotics operations between Italy and North America and was observed arriving in Boston approximately 2 weeks prior to the Apalachin meeting. He was not one of the bosses detained in Apalachin, but the F.B.N. speculate that Buccola's reason for traveling to the United States at this time was to confer with the various American mafia bosses attending the Apalachin meeting.

[[edit](#)] In popular culture

- [Edward L. Cahn](#) directed a low budget [1959 exploitation film](#) called *Inside the Mafia* that referenced the incident.
- The Apalachin Meeting is referenced by [Ray Liotta](#)'s character [Henry Hill](#) in the 1990 film [Goodfellas](#).
- The meeting was also comically depicted in the 1999 film [Analyze This](#).
- Similar to many events in the *Godfather* novels, this is used as the primary influence of a Commission meeting that is raided by the police in the novel [The Godfather Returns](#).

[[edit](#)] References

- Sifakis, Carl. *The Mafia Encyclopedia: Second Edition*. New York: Checkmark Books, 1999. [ISBN 0-8160-3857-0](#) (pbk.)

1. [^] Sifakis, p. 19-20

[[edit](#)] Further reading

- Bernstein, Lee. *The Greatest Menace: Organized Crime in Cold War America*. Boston: Univ of Massachusetts Press, 2001. [ISBN 1-55849-345-X](#)
- Lamothe, Lee and Antonio Nicaso. *Bloodlines: The Rise and Fall of the Mafia's Royal Family*. Toronto: HarperCollins Publishers, 2001. [ISBN 0-00-638524-9](#)
- Peterson, Robert W. *Crime & the American Response*. New York: Facts on File, 1973. [ISBN 0-87196-227-6](#)
- Raab, Selwyn. *Five Families: The Rise, Decline, and Resurgence of America's Most Powerful Mafia Empires*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 2005. [ISBN 0-312-30094-8](#)
- Repetto, Thomas. *American Mafia: A History of Its Rise to Power*. New York: Henry Holt & Co., 2004. [ISBN 0-8050-7798-7](#)
- Sterling, Claire. *Octopus: The Long Reach of the International Sicilian Mafia*. New York: Simon & Schuster (Touchstone Edition), 1991.
- United States. Congress. Senate. Committee on Governmental Affairs. Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations. *Profile On Organized Crime Mid-Atlantic Region*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. G.P.O., 1983. [\[1\]](#)
- Pennsylvania Crime Commission: 1984 Report*. St. Davids, Pennsylvania: DIANE Publishing, 1984. [ISBN 0-8182-0000-6](#) [\[2\]](#)

[[edit](#)] External links

- [Apalachin](#) by Jerry Capeci
- [The Mob on the Nob: The Mafia I knew](#) by Mike La Sorte, Professor Emeritus
- [Federal Bureau of Investigation - Investigative Programs: Organized Crime](#)
- [Mafia In Apalachin ?](#) by Gary Hafer
- [Were the Kennedy's at Apalachin?](#) by Terry J. Ward

Retrieved from "http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apalachin_Meeting"

Categories: [Mafia meetings](#) | [1957 in the United States](#) | [American Mafia events](#)

Hidden categories: [Articles needing additional references from April 2007](#) | [Cleanup from December 2006](#) | [All pages needing cleanup](#)

Views

- [Article](#)
- [Discussion](#)
- [Edit this page](#)
- [History](#)

Personal tools

- [Log in / create account](#)


Navigation

- [Main page](#)
- [Contents](#)
- [Featured content](#)
- [Current events](#)
- [Random article](#)

Search



DeCavalcante crime family Wikipedia

DeCavalcante crime family	
In	 <u>Elizabeth, New Jersey</u>
Founded by	<u>Gaspare D'Amico</u>
Years active	1910s-present
Territory	<u>Elizabeth, New Jersey</u> , <u>Newark, New Jersey</u> , <u>Hudson River</u>
Ethnicity	<u>Italian</u> , <u>Italian-American</u>
Membership	80-100 made members, 300 associates approx
Criminal activities	<u>Racketeering</u> , <u>conspiracy</u> , <u>loansharking</u> , <u>money laundering</u> , <u>murder</u> , <u>drug trafficking</u> , <u>gambling</u> , <u>waste management</u> , <u>extortion</u> , <u>fraud</u> , <u>wire fraud</u> , <u>fencing</u> and <u>hijacking</u> .
Allies	<u>Five Families of New York</u> , including <u>Philadelphia</u> and <u>Patriarca</u> crime families
Rivals	Various <u>gangs</u> over NJ, including their allies

The **DeCavalcante Crime Family** is an organized crime family that controls organized crime activities in Elizabeth, New Jersey and Newark, New Jersey, despite operating on the other side of the Hudson River in New York, within the nationwide criminal phenomenon known as the Mafia (or Cosa Nostra). It maintains strong relations with much of Five Families of New York, plus the Philadelphia crime family and the Patriarca crime family of Boston and much of New England. Its illicit activities includes labor racketeering, money laundering, drug trafficking, illegal gambling, loansharking, extortion, murder for hire, construction, building and cement violations, fraud and wire fraud, hijacking, pier thefts and fencing. It is thought that the fictional DiMeo Crime Family on the HBO original series *The Sopranos*, is loosely based on the real-life DeCavalcante family.

Contents

- 1 History of the DeCavalcante crime family
 - 1.1 The Beginnings
 - 1.2 Sam The Plumber
 - 1.3 John the Eagle
 - 1.4 Acting bosses
 - 1.5 The Ruling Panel
 - 1.6 Investigations
 - 1.7 Informants and trials
 - 1.8 Current position and leadership
- 2 Bosses of the DeCavalcante crime family
- 3 Current leading members
- 4 Present family capos
- 5 Other Members
 - 5.1 Underbosses
 - 5.2 Consigliere
 - 5.3 Capos
 - 5.4 Soldiers
- 6 Government witnesses
- 7 References
- 8 Further reading
- 9 External links

History of the DeCavalcante crime family

The Beginnings

Although not recognized as an autonomous crime family until the regime of Simone DeCavalcante, the first major head of the New Jersey rackets was Gaspare D'Amico. Not much is known of D'Amico's reign despite his control of large illegal gambling and bootlegging operations in Newark, New Jersey throughout the early 1920s. However, it has been proven that future head of the Lucchese crime family, Gaetano "Tom" Reina, also played a large role in transportation of alcohol and whiskey in the North Jersey area during the Prohibition. After D'Amico retired sometime in the 1930s, Stefano Badami took over the rackets.^[1]

Stefano "Steve" Badami, a known racketeer during the 1930s, took over D'Amico's crime organization upon his retirement, and operated out of Newark and Trenton, New Jersey. However, his reign proved to be very disruptive, as members of the Newark and the Elizabeth factions began fighting for total control of New Jersey. As Badami kept controlling the crew up towards the 1950s, he was suddenly murdered in 1955, in what appears to have been another power struggle in between the two factions. Badami's Underboss and fellow mobster, Phil Amari stepped up to run the illegal operations.^[2]

Filippo "Phil" Amari, a mobster recognized by US law enforcement to be heavily involved with labor racketeering, loansharking, extortion and narcotics activities in both Newark, New Jersey and even New York City, was now considered the new head of the New Jersey organization. His reign proved to be very short, as there were multiple factions operating underneath who all conspired to take over. While still in charge, he relocated to Sicily and was replaced by Nicholas "Nick" Delmore, who with Underbosses of Elizabeth and Newark, Frank Majuri and Louis "Fat Lou" LaRasso attended the infamous 1957 Apalachin Convention to represent the small New Jersey crime family.^[3]

As Delmore kept running the organization before he became ill in the early 1960s, the rebellious times of New Jersey had finally ended. Nick Delmore later died in 1964, and his nephew Simone DeCavalcante was quickly installed as new boss of the newly official recognized **DeCavalcante crime family** of North Jersey.

Sam The Plumber

The official criminal organization began with Simone DeCavalcante, a diplomatic, 'old school', classy and calculated Don who resembled, in many ways, the character of Don Corleone in Mario Puzo's *The Godfather*. He was born in 1913 and was a mobster involved in illegal gambling, murder and racketeering for most of his life. He died of a heart attack at the age of 84.

Between 1964, when he rose to power, and 1969, when he was incarcerated, he doubled the number of made-men within his family. He owned *Kenilworth Heating and Air Conditioning*, in Kenilworth, New Jersey, as a legal front and source of taxable income and for which he gained the nickname **Sam the Plumber**. Sam DeCavalcante also claimed to be of Italian Royal lineage and another nickname he bore was **The Count**. He gained much respect because he won a coveted place on the infamous 'Commission', a governing body for the U.S. Mafia, which included the Five Families of New York and the Chicago Outfit of the Midwest. Mob representatives of Miami were also included.

DeCavalcante and 54 associates were charged and tried; he plead guilty to operating a gambling racket, turning over \$20 million a year. At the same time, a state report indicated that he and another Mafia family controlled 90% of pornography stores in New York City. DeCavalcante was sentenced to five years, and after he was released from prison, he retired to a high-rise condo in Florida and largely stayed out of Mafia business, although the FBI believed he was still 'advising' the family into the early 1990s. His successor was John Riggi.

John the Eagle

After Simone DeCavalcante left prison, in the mid 1970s, he appointed a well-spoken and polite man, in his late 40s, named Giovanni "John the Eagle" Riggi to Acting boss of the family while he stayed semi-retired in Florida. Sam DeCavalcante stepped down as Boss officially in 1980, passing leadership to Riggi, who had been a business agent of the *International Association of Laborers and Hod Carriers*, in New Jersey for years. He was

promoted to the position of full-boss, and he reaped the enormous benefits of large labor and construction racketeering, as well as loansharking, illegal gambling and extortion activities. Riggi also had the family maintain their old traditions, which Sam DeCavalcante saw as unnecessary. Among these traditions were to resume using a gun, knife and burning holy card as props in induction ceremonies for associates to become soldiers in the family. Additionally, after Riggi used his power and influence to place subcontractors and workers other than laborers at various construction projects around the state, the DeCavalcantes were able to rip-off union welfare and pension funds. Riggi continued to run the family throughout the 1980s, with Underboss Girolamo "Jimmy" Palermo and Stefano "Steve the Truck Driver" Vitabile as Consigliere, after the death of Frank Majuri. Riggi promoted Majuri's son Charles "Big Ears" Majuri as captain and in charge of the Newark faction, as well as himself operating out of powerful Elizabeth, New Jersey. It was around the mid-1980s, that Riggi established a great friendship with new reputed Gambino crime family boss, John Gotti.

According to Jerry Capeci, in the late 1980s, John Gotti reached out to Riggi for a favor: the execution of Fred Weiss, a jammed-up private sanitation magnate considered a candidate for becoming an informer. The late Gambino crime family garbage king and captain, James "Jimmy Brown" Failla, was the catalyst for Gotti's request, according to prosecutors Miriam Rocah, Michael McGovern and John Hillebrecht. On September 5, 1989, in his home, Riggi told capo Anthony Rotondo; *that the DeCavalcante family had to get the job done at any cost*, according to an FBI report obtained by Gangland. After impressing the importance of the effort on Rotondo and selecting mobsters for the task, Riggi instructed Rotondo to tell DeCavalcante associate, Vincent "Vinny Ocean" Palermo, to visit Riggi the following day. (This is according to a report by FBI Agent Nora Conley.) On September 11, one day after Rotondo spotted Gambino crime family mobsters on the prowl near Weiss's Staten Island home, the DeCavalcante hitmen moved into high gear, climbed into his car and James "Jimmy" Gallo and Vincent Palermo shot Weiss repeatedly, killing him instantly. Longtime official Underboss, Louis "Fat Lou" LaRasso, who also played a huge role in Weiss' murder, was also reported missing in the summer of 1991.

Acting bosses

But later in 1989, Riggi was put on trial for racketeering and extortion charges, and chose the fierce DeCavalcante captain, Gaetano "Corky" Vastola, as Acting boss and to run the day-to-day activities of the family. According to US law enforcement, Gambino crime family boss John Gotti and Underboss Salvatore "Sammy the Bull" Gravano reportedly reached out to another captain named John "Johnny Boy" D'Amato, in an attempt to kill Vastola and try and take over the DeCavalcante crime family, however, Riggi was convicted and sent to Fort Dix Federal Prison later in 1990, as well as Vastola was jailed on extortion charges that same year, which made Riggi to promote D'Amato as the new Acting boss of the family in early 1991. Unfortunately, D'Amato got into an argument with his girlfriend, who told Anthony Rotondo that D'Amato was homosexual. Reportedly, Rotondo shared it with the current administration members Giacomo "Jake" Amari and Stefano "Steve the Truck Driver" Vitabile, who quickly acted on prior

knowledge and decided to have D'Amato murdered in early 1992. Once again, Vincent "Vinny Ocean" Palermo and James "Jimmy" Gallo were two of the triggermen.

Riggi continued to run the family from his jail cell, but he appointed Giacomo "Jake" Amari as new Acting boss, who ran AMI Construction from Elizabeth, New Jersey. All was seemingly settled until Amari began to die, slowly, of stomach cancer in 1997. This caused a massive power vacuum, with members such as Charles 'Big Ears' Majuri, Frank Polizzi and the alleged Consigliere, Stefano Vitabile, all attempting to ratify and re-structure the state of the family. All of the high-ranking members, such as Charles Majuri, Stefano Vitabile, Vincent 'Vinny Ocean' Palermo and Caporegime Anthony Rotondo were desperately pushing to become the next boss of the DeCavalcante crime family.

The Ruling Panel

Giovanni "John the Eagle" Riggi, the longtime boss of the DeCavalcante family, was in a predicament by the late 1990s, when his Acting boss, Jake Amari, died of stomach cancer. He organized a 'panel' of the most trusted mobsters, from the 50 or so active members, to make decisions and act in the same capacity as a boss would. These members of the Ruling Panel were prominent Elizabeth faction leaders Girolamo "Jimmy" Palermo and Vincent "Vinny Ocean" Palermo (no relation) and reputed Newark faction-leader Charles "Big Ears" Majuri, with Stefano "Steve the Truck Driver" Vitabile as the reputed Consigliere and advisor to all three factions.

The Panel, however, infuriated longtime captain Charles Majuri, who had been a hardworking member of the family since his early teens, feeling he was wronged when he wasn't selected as the only Acting boss. To gain complete control of the DeCavalcante family, Majuri decided that he should murder Vincent and Jimmy Palermo, leaving him in charge of the panel, and by extension, the family. Majuri reputedly contracted soldier James "Jimmy" Gallo to murder Vincent Palermo, now a capo and his strongest rival, however, Gallo was a strong ally and friend of Vincent Palermo, and told him about Majuri's plans.

In retaliation, Vincent Palermo decided to have Majuri murdered, however, Majuri controlled large racketeering operations in Newark, as well as his influence heavy within several unions, unions Palermo wanted to control. Palermo was privy to the information that Majuri had been removing his mobsters from the union payroll and taking their money; this, of course, made Majuri many enemies. In order to have Majuri eliminated, Palermo contracted DeCavalcante family soldiers Joseph Masella, Anthony Capo and James "Jimmy" Gallo.

The three hitmen waited for the right moment, but were boxed in and felt the environment for making the hit wasn't certain enough; they then left. Masella reported to Palermo, who was hiding in Florida at the time, that the assassination-attempt had failed. Palermo then decided to let Majuri off, believing he wasn't powerful enough to make a threat.

Investigations

Toward the late 1990s, the 'Ruling Panel' kept running the DeCavalcante crime family with Giovanni "John the Eagle" Riggi still behind bars as the Boss, however, Vincent "Vinny Ocean" Palermo gained more power and influence and eventually became the official Acting boss of the DeCavalcante family. While shutting Majuri out of most of the family's decisions, Palermo operated out of his strip-club *Wiggles*, where he and other high-ranking members such as Stefano Vitabile, capos Anthony Rotondo, Giuseppe "Pino" Schifilliti, Philip "Phil" Abramo and Girolamo "Jimmy" Palermo conspired to kill several members of the DeCavalcante family, such as soldiers Frank D'Amato and Joseph Masella, even Palermo's manager at his clubs, Tom Salvata.

Around here, in 1998, began the complete downfall of the DeCavalcante family, as an associate named Ralph Guarino, who has just been arrested for organizing three drug-addicted thieves; Richard Gillette, Melvin Folk and Michael Reed to rob the Bank of America, became an informant. The Bank of America Brinks van which brought millions to the WTC every day was ambushed by the robbers and they escaped with more than \$1.6 million, however, in the aftermath of the Bank of America Robbery all three of the robbers were caught and in the end, Guarino decided to become an FBI informant and give up the DeCavalcante family, instead of spending 20 years in prison. During his time as an informant, fellow mobster Joseph Masella was gunned down on the orders of Vincent Palermo, and he was offered to become a made man.

There was also a plan to murder Frank D'Amato, initiated by Vinny Palermo, and what was worse; Ralph Guarino had it all on tape. The FBI could pounce and implicate most of the DeCavalcante family on one or two offenses. On December 2, 1999, there was a massive attack, launched by US law enforcement in which they aimed to arrest over 40 members of the DeCavalcante family, which had an estimated 70 active members by that point, with over 100 associates.

They arrested Vinny Palermo, in connection with the attempted-murder of Frank D'Amato, Charles Majuri and a whole host of other offences. They arrested Joseph "Tin Ear" Sclafani, a member of the DeCavalcante family who had been heard, on FBI tape, saying that he was going to make a robbery and unintentionally admitting to innumerable other offences, threatening to murder any police informant, without hesitation. Westley Paloscio, a bookmaker, was charged, along with four others, for the conspiracy to murder Joseph Masella. Numerous arrests were made when Bonanno associate, and informant, Jeffrey Pokross revealed a 'pump-and-dump' scam being run by the Bonnano crime family from DMN Capital Investment, in which a dozen mobsters persuaded Senior Citizens to buy worthless stocks and shares. Here, recognized capo Philip "Phil" Abramo was arrested. The US law enforcement rounded up the entire crime family, and even put Giovanni "John the Eagle" Riggi, who was hoping to be released in 2003, on trial in 2000 with reputed Acting boss Vincent "Vinny Ocean" Palermo, Underboss Girolamo "Jimmy" Palermo, Consigliere Stefano Vitabile, captains Anthony Rotondo, Giuseppe "Pino" Schifilliti, Philip Abramo, Frank Polizzi and Charles Majuri, even dozens of soldiers, including James Gallo and Anthony Capo.

Informants and trials

One by one, some members of the DeCavalcante family realized that they would not spend the rest of their lives behind bars, as reputed hitman Anthony Capo even became an informant, giving out information about Vincent "Vinny Ocean" Palermo planning to murder Frank D'Amato, and he told the US authorities about how Palermo, in person, had shot and killed Real-Estate Developer, Fred Weiss, in 1989, on the orders of Anthony Rotondo. Not long after, Rotondo broke and gave up everything, including other murder conspiracies revolving the 1990s killing of John D'Amato, Louis LaRasso and Joseph Masella, and the entire conspiracy to kill Charles Majuri, Frank D'Amato and Tom Salvata.

By the end of both Anthony Rotondo and Anthony Capo's testimony, Palermo had to consider the possibility that with Rudolph Giuliani, New York's tough, anti-crime Mayor, he'd might face the death penalty, and finally, Palermo turned state's evidence as well, providing everything from labor and construction racketeering, to extortion, loansharking and illegal gambling, to drug trafficking, murder and conspiracy to commit murder charges, which were put on each of every DeCavalcante captain in the family at the time, even at two of the most high-ranking members of the family, Stefano Vitabile and Girolamo Palermo.

Current position and leadership

Thanks to the shocking testimonies of Anthony Capo, Anthony Rotondo, Vincent Palermo and the information gained via Ralph Guarino, the FBI arrested Riggi, who was already in jail, they also arrested Jimmy Palermo (Underboss), Giuseppe Schifilliti (Capo), Philip Abramo (Capo), Frank Polizzi (Capo), Charles Majuri (Capo) and Stefano Vitabile (Consigliere). The FBI arrested and federal prosecutors scored convictions against almost every member of the family.

As US law enforcement continues to indict, arrest and prosecute members of the DeCavalcante crime family, federal authorities estimate that Giovanni "John the Eagle" Riggi still controls the family while incarcerated, with Elizabeth faction leaders Francesco "Frank" Guarraci as the current Acting Boss on the outside while running the day-to-day activities along with current Underboss Joseph "Joe" Miranda and longtime DeCavalcante soldier Frank D'Amato as the Acting Consigliere for Stefano "Steve the Truck Driver" Vitabile, who was sentenced to life imprisonment along with captains Abramo and Schifilliti in 2006. Riggi is still on trial, if convicted, he will also be sentenced to life behind bars.

Bosses of the DeCavalcante crime family

- 1910–1937 — Gaspare D'Amico (retired due to internal rivalry between Newark and Elizabeth factions in 1937.)
- 1937–1955 — Stefano "Steve" Badami (murderd in 1955 in another powerstruggle between the two factions of the organization.)

- 1955–1957 — Filippo "Phil" Amari (replaced by Nick Delmore after the war between Newark and Elizabeth factions. The Elizabeth faction later formed the family known today as the DeCavalcante crime family, but due to internal rivalry, he retired.)
- 1957–1964 — Nicholas "Nick" Delmore (recognized as the first official boss of the DeCavalcante crime family, attended the Apalachin Meeting in 1957, but retired and died due to ill health in 1964.)
- 1964–1975 — Simone "Sam the Plumber" DeCavalcante (nephew of Nick Delmore, expanded the family into Newark once again, and doubled the family's income and soldiers. Semi-retired in Florida by 1975. Died in 1997.)
- 1975–1980 — Simone "Sam the Plumber" DeCavalcante (Boss, semi-retired), Giovanni "John the Eagle" Riggi (acting boss)
- 1980–1990 — Giovanni "John the Eagle" Riggi (Boss) (convicted of extortion and racketeering, sentenced to 15 years in prison.)
- 1990–1991 — Giovanni "John the Eagle" Riggi (Boss, imprisoned), Gaetano "Corky" Vastola (acting boss, jailed)
- 1991–1992 — Giovanni "John the Eagle" Riggi (Boss, imprisoned), John "Johnny Boy" D'Amato (acting boss, murdered)
- 1992–1994 — Giacomo "Jake" Amari (acting boss/underboss, died from stomach cancer.)
- 1994–2000 — **Ruling Committee/Panel** (street bosses) Vincent "Vinny Ocean" Palermo (defected 2000), Charles "Big Ears" Majuri (jailed), Girolamo "Jimmy" Palermo (jailed, house arrest) (**Ruling Committee/Panel** disbanded.)
- 2000–2006 — Giovanni "John" Riggi (Boss, imprisoned), Stefano "Steve the Truck Driver" Vitabile (acting boss/consigliere, jailed)
- 2006–2008 — Giovanni "John the Eagle" Riggi (Boss, imprisoned), Francesco "Frank" Guaracci (street boss) (sicilian born Guaracci is listed as street boss and is allegedly running the day-to-day activities), Girolamo "Jimmy" Palermo (underboss, jailed), Stefano "Steve the Truck Driver" Vitabile (consigliere, jailed), Frank D'Amato (acting consigliere)
- 2008–present — Francesco "Frank" Guarraci (acting boss), Joseph "Joe" Miranda (underboss), Frank D'Amato (consigliere) (present regime-hierarchy 2008) [1]

Current leading members

The DeCavalcante family is known to import many members in from Sicily.^[4]

- Giovanni "John the Eagle" Riggi - Longtime Boss of the DeCavalcante crime family since the 1970s. Central ally of Gambino crime family Boss John Gotti. Convicted of racketeering and extortion charges in 1990 and is currently serving 15 years. Due out in 2012.
- Francesco "Frank" Guarraci - Capo, promoted to Acting boss of the family in 2006 due to massive family indictments, reportedly operates out of the Elizabeth faction of the family alongside newly-made Underboss Joseph Miranda. Born in Sicily.

- Joseph "Joe" Miranda - Current Underboss of the DeCavalcante crime family. Longtime Caporegime since the 1980s and ally of John Riggi. Operates out of the Elizabeth faction with racketeering and extortion activities. Considered *senior advisor* to the family.
- Stefano "Steve the Truck Driver" Vitabile - Reputed Consigliere since the 1980s to John Riggi. Convicted of racketeering, extortion and three counts of conspiracy to commit murder. Vitabile was sentenced to life imprisonment with two of his capos in 2006.

Present family capos

- Francesco "Frank" Guarraci - Capo, promoted to Acting boss in 2006. Reportedly controls the Elizabeth faction of the family with Miranda in illegal gambling, extortion, loansharking, and large labor and construction racketeering operations. Born in Sicily.
- Joseph "Joe" Miranda - Capo, currently promoted to Underboss, and operates out of the Elizabeth faction with labor racketeering and extortion along side Acting boss Frank Guarraci. Considered *senior advisor* to the family.
- Girolamo "Jimmy" Palermo - Capo, former longtime Underboss and Acting Boss of the family under John Riggi, put under house arrest after he was arrested on racketeering and murder conspiracy charges in 2003. Currently on trial for these charges.
- Charles "Big Ears" Majuri - Capo of the family since the 1980s. Former rival of John Riggi and Jimmy Palermo and operates out of the Newark faction of the family. Currently imprisoned for illegal gambling and loansharking charges.
- Giuseppe "Pino" Schifilliti - Capo of the DeCavalcante crime family since the regime of John Riggi and Sam DeCavalcante. Put on trial in 2005 for racketeering, extortion and conspiracy charges. Sentenced to life imprisonment in 2006 alongside Vitabile.
- Philip "Phil" Abramo - Capo since the 1990s. Ran the New York faction of the DeCavalcante family. Operated with stocks and fraud activities in Manhattan, New York and sentenced to life imprisonment in 2006 on racketeering and conspiracy charges.
- Gaetano "Corky" Vastola - Capo since the early 1980s, and seen as one of the toughest mobsters under Riggi as his Acting Boss. Vastola was jailed in 1991 on extortion charges and released in 1998. Considered retired as he's residing in Florida.

Other Members

Underbosses

- Nicholas Delmore - Underboss/Newark (1955-1956)
- Frank Majuri - Underboss/Newark (1957-1958)
- Louis LaRasso - Underboss/Newark (1958-1980)
- Girolamo Palermo - Underboss/Elizabeth (1980-1989)
- Giacomo Amari - Underboss/Elizabeth (1989-1994)
- Girolamo Palermo - Underboss/Elizabeth (1994-2003)
- Joseph Miranda - Underboss/Elizabeth (2003-present)

Consigliere

- Frank Majuri - Consigliere/Newark (1964-1983)
- Stefano Vitabile - Consigliere/Elizabeth (1983-2006)
- Frank D'Amato - Consigliere/Elizabeth (2006-present)

Capos

- Philip Amari - Capo/Newark (1930s-1955)
- Sam DeCavalcante - Capo/Newark (1950s-1964)
- Nicholas Delmore - Capo/Newark (1930s-1955)
- Stefano Badami - Capo/Newark (1920s-1937)
- Louis LaRasso - Capo/Newark (1955-1957)
- Frank Majuri - Capo/Newark (1957-1964)
- Girolamo Palermo - Capo/Elizabeth (1980s-present)
- Frank Polizzi - Capo/Newark (1980s-2001)
- John Riggi - Capo/Elizabeth (1964-1975)
- Giacomo Amari - Capo/Elizabeth (1980-1989)
- Joseph Miranda - Capo/Elizabeth (1980s-present)
- Frank Guarraci - Capo/Elizabeth (2000-present)
- Gaetano Vastola - Capo/Newark (1980s-present)
- Joseph Schifilliti - Capo/Newark (1980s-2006)
- Charles Majuri - Capo/Newark (1980s-present)
- Vincent Palermo - Capo/Elizabeth (1990s-2000)
- Anthony Rotondo - Capo/Elizabeth (1989-2001)
- John D'Amato - Capo/Elizabeth (1980s-1992)
- Philip Abramo - Capo/New York (1990s-2006)

Soldiers

- Frank D'Amato
- Joseph Masella
- Anthony Capo
- James Gallo
- Joseph Sclafani
- Louis Consalvo

- Gregory Rago
- Bernard NiCastro
- Frank Scarabino
- Jason Marciano
- Anthony Mannarino
- Christopher Albano

Associates (according to EPD OC squad, some of these associates could be made members and are part of the NJ faction)

- Gennero Nobile, age unknown
- Constantino Luce, 44 'Tino'
- John Cammarotta, 39 'Johnny First St'
- Peter Principio, 29 'Petey P'
- Carl Stoffers, 31 'Jack Armstrong' 'Fireplug'
- Ronald Valentini, 55 'Big Ron' 'Ronnie V'
- John Rotundo, 32
- Michael Prozell, 24 'Messy Marvin'
- James Thomas
- Dominick Tedesco 'Black Dom'
- Venero Cacciatoli 'Zip'
- Corrado Rizzuto, 45
- James St. John, 41
- Joseph Cortes 'JoJo'
- Corrado Icantonio 'Dino'
- Vincent Valvano 32 'Vinnie V' 'The Mechanic'
- James Americo 44 'Jimmy Numbers'
- Stefeano Biaggio 'The Zip'
- William Rava 29 'Big Billy'
- Joseph Rava 'Big Joey' 'The Cannibal' 'Joey Fresh'
- Anthony Maggliocco 45 'Scrapper' 'Scraps'
- Frank Murphy 'The Mick' 'Irish Frank' 'Frankie Irish'
- Anthony Trippiolla 34 'Tony Black'

Government witnesses

- Vincent "Vinny Ocean" Palermo - Acting boss
- Anthony "Tony" Rotondo - Capo
- Anthony "Tony" Capo - Soldier
- Frank "Beast" Scarabino - Soldier
- Ralph "Ralphie" Guarino - Associate

References

1. Organized Crime Syndicates
2. The DeCavalcante Crime Family

3. Mafia In Apalachin
4. Corliss, Richard. Crittle, Simon. "The Last Don", *Time Magazine*, March 29, 2004. Accessed June 21, 2008.

Further reading

- Smith, Greg B. *Made Men: The True Rise-and-Fall Story of a New Jersey Mob Family*. Berkley Books, 2003. ISBN 0-425-18551-6
- Jacobs, James B. *Busting the Mob: The United States Vs. Cosa Nostra*. New York: NYU Press, 1994. ISBN 0-8147-4230-0
- Jacobs, James B., Coleen Friel and Robert Radick. *Gotham Unbound: How New York City Was Liberated from the Grip of Organized Crime*. New York: NYU Press, 1999. ISBN 0-8147-4247-5
- Goldstock, Ronald, Martin Marcus and II Thacher. *Corruption and Racketeering in the New York City Construction Industry: Final Report of the New York State Organized Crime Task Force*. New York: NYU Press, 1990. ISBN 0-8147-3034-5
- United States. Congress. Senate. Committee on the Judiciary. *Organized Crime in America: Hearings Before the Committee on the Judiciary, United States Senate*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. G.P.O., 1983.

External links

- The Mafia in New Jersey - State of New Jersey Commission of Investigation 1989
- DeCavalante Crime Family - New Jersey's Cosa Nostra Family
- New York Times: Crime Family Dealt a Blow, Police Say by William K. Rashbaum
- http://www.thelaborers.net/lexisnexis/951_f2d_1368-riggi.htm
- The Star-Ledger: Mob Story - How a crime family turned dysfunctional by Robert Rudolph
- New York Times: New Charges for Mob Family as U.S. Indictment Names 20 by Alan Feuer
- Round Up The Usual Suspects by John William Tuohy

Frank Majuri Wikipedia

Francesco "Fat Frank" Majuri (April 18, 1909 - 1983) was a New Jersey mobster and the former Consigliere of the DeCavalcante crime family. His son is Charles "Big Ears" Majuri, a longtime recognized Captain in the Newark faction of the same crime family.

After Filippo "Phil" Amari became boss of the New Jersey Mafia family later known as the DeCavalcante crime family, Majuri was promoted Caporegime and later in the mid 1950s, the family Underboss. After Amari officially retired due to internal rivalry between the Newark and Elizabeth factions of the family, Majuri, along with Louis "Fat Lou" LaRasso, attended the Apalachin Meeting in 1957 as the only representatives of the small DeCavalcante crime family.

After returning to New Jersey, Nicholas "Nick" Delmore was installed as the new boss of the family with the retirement of Amari. Delmore demoted Majuri to captain, and promoted LaRasso as the new Underboss, however, with the death of Delmore in 1964, his nephew Simone "Sam the Plumber" DeCavalcante was quickly installed as boss, who promoted Majuri back to the top circle of the family as its reputed Consigliere. DeCavalcante and Majuri quickly became two of the most powerful mobsters in New Jersey and doubled the family's membership and profit. Majuri kept operating in the Newark faction as Consigliere throughout the 1960s and early 1970s.

But with the evaluation of Majuri's rival Giovanni "John the Eagle" Riggi as the new boss upon DeCavalcante's retirement in the mid 1970s, Majuri was replaced with Riggi's underling Stefano "Steve the Truck Driver" Vitabile as new acting consigliere. According to US law enforcement, Majuri's old crew in the Newark faction was taken over by his son Charles in the early 1980s. Frank Majuri died later in 1983, and Vitabile became the official DeCavalcante crime family Consigliere.



Charles Majuri

References

- Bureau of Narcotics, U.S. Treasury Department, "Mafia: the Government's Secret File on Organized Crime, HarperCollins Publishers 2007 ISBN 0-06-136385-5

Retrieved from "http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frank_Majuri"

Saturday, 31 January 2015

Elizabeth Family membership chart 1930-60's

Elizabeth Family/Table 1							
NAME	ALIAS	DATES	ORIGIN	RELAT	ACTIVE	POS	VARIOUS
Amari-Filippo	Big Phil	1899-1963	Ribera,Sic.[1921]	S.DeCavalcante[M]	1930-50's	Boss	Deposed 1957
Buccino-Filippo*	Bacino	1899-	Ribera, Sic.		1940's	Sol	To Chicago
Caruso-Anthony	The Fox	1898-1968	USA		1940-60's	Sol	
Caternicchio-Salvatore	Skinny Sal	1904-89			1940-70's	Sol	
Cocchiaro-Frank	Big Frank	1920-85		Carmelo[B]	1950-80's	Capo	
Coletti-Giacomo	Jake	189?-1987	Ribera,Sic.[1905]	Joseph[S]	1940-70's	Sol	
Corsentino-Carmelo	Carlo	1895-1995	Ribera,Sic.[1913]	Carl[S]	1940-70's		
D'Amato-Paul	Skinny	1908-84		John[?]	1940-70's	Sol	To Las Vegas 19?
Danzo-Joseph	Whitey	1913-81		S.Profaci Jnr.[M]Col	1950-80's	Sol	
DeCavalante-Simone	Sam the Plumber	1912-97	USA	? [F]	1940-90's	Boss	Retired 1990's
DeCavalcante-Francesco		1890*-	Monreale, Sic.	Simone[S]	1930-	Capo	
Delmore-Nicholas	Nicolo Amoruso[RN]	1888-1964	Nicosia, Sic.[1898]	S.DeCavalcante[N]	1940-60's	Boss	Retired 1961
DiBiasio-Giovanni*	John	1890-1948	Fondi ? [1906]		1940's	?	Killed/Jersey City
DiGiovanna-Louis	Lulu	-1966			-60's	Sol	Poss. Connect.
DiGirolamo-Ignazio	Gnatz	1910-76*			1950-70's	Sol	Bristol,N.J.
Farina-Paolo	Gino	1926-	Caltabellota, Sic.		1950-	Capo	
Galletta-Pietro		1896-1998	Ribera,Sic.[1907]		1940-60's	Sol	
Gallo-Angelo		1921-85		Umberto[B]	1950-70's	Sol	
Giacobbe-Joseph Snr.	Uncle Joe	1923-88		Lawrence[B]	1950-80's	Capo	
Giacobbe-		1906-		Joseph[?]	1940-	Sol	

Elizabeth Family/Table 1							
NAME	ALIAS	DATES	ORIGIN	RELAT	ACTIVE	POS	VARIOUS
Pietro		84			70's		
Giordano-John	Tracey	1910-65			1950-60's	Sol	
Ingranio-Vincent*					-80's	Capo	
Ippolito-Joseph				Louis[?]	1950-	Sol	
LaMela-Phillip*	The Undertaker	19 ?		John[?]		Sol	
LaRasso-Alfonso*		1890-	Ribera, Sic. [1914]	Louis[?]	1940-	Sol	
Larasso-Anthony*		1882-1976*		Louis[?]	1920-50's	Sol	
Larusso-Luciano	Fat Louie	1926-91			1950-80's	Capo	Killed
LaSelva-Anthony		1920-95		Bros.	1950-90's	Sol	
LaSelva-Joseph		1907-83		Bros.	1950-80's	Capo	Connect.
LaSelva-Thomas		1911-93		Bros.	1950-80's	Sol	
Lolordo-Joseph		1898-1978	Ribera, Sic. [1911]	Pasqualino[B]Chic.	1940-70's	Sol	Ex Chicago
Majuri-Frank	Big Frank	1909-99	USA	Charles[S]	1940-80's	U/B	
Miranda-Joseph		1923-			1950-	Sol	
Noto-Daniel	Dante	1914-90			1950-80's	Sol	
Patrino-Joseph				G.Coletti[M]	1950-	Sol	
Perrone-Gerardo	Jerry	1922*-	Tricarico, It. [1930]	Frank[S] Gen.	?	Sol	
Quarino-Gerardo*	Jerry			Nicholas[?]	?	Sol	
Quarino-Nicholas		1907-88		Gerardo[?]	1950-80's	Sol	
Riggi-Emmanuele Snr.		1903-83	Ribera,Sic.[1906]	John Snr.[S]	1930-70's	Capo	
Riggi-John Snr.	Uncle John	1925-		F+Sons	1950-	Boss	
Russo-Angelo		1890-			1940-	Sol	

Elizabeth Family/Table 1							
NAME	ALIAS	DATES	ORIGIN	RELAT	ACTIVE	POS	VARIOUS
		1963			60's		
Savarese-James*		1888-1970	Naples [1902]		1940-60's	Sol	To Chicago[1940]
Sferra-Joseph	Joe Tiger	1913-88			1950-70's	Capo	Demoted 1960's
Sortino-Gennaro		1873*-	[1905]	Emanuele [S]	1930-	Sol	
Staiti-Anthony		1920-2001			1950-90's	Sol	

Posted by Bill Feather at 12:03 No comments:

[Email This](#)[BlogThis!](#)[Share to Twitter](#)[Share to Facebook](#)[Share to Pinterest](#)

Labels: [Elizabeth](#)

Source: Jonathon VanMeter; *The Last Good Time: Skinny D'Amato, The Notorious 500 Club & The Rise and Fall of Atlantic City*; Crown Publishers, NY. 2003.

AC was neutral ground for mobsters from Philly, NY, Baltimore and Chicago; and a safe haven for criminals during prohibition. AC under control of Enoch "Nucky" Johnson, as was much of NJ. Nucky was not beholden to any one LCN faction, and held several government positions including Atlantic County Treasurer. Prohibition caused the LCN to form an intricate web involving the tristate area: Dutch Schultz, Albert Anastasia, Vito Genovese, Joe Adonis, Carlo Gambino, Abner "Longie" Zwillman, Willie Moretti and Arnold Rothstein. Longie Zwillman operated out of Newark; he had a fleet of ships that picked up bootleg liquor from French islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon, off the Canadian coast. "Rum Row" was an imaginary line 30 miles off the NJ coast where his ships would offload their cargo to smaller speedboats painted gray. These small boats were operated by the Dougherty brothers of Philly, Harry Fleischer, head of the "purple gang" of Detroit, and George Ramus, the Ohio lawyer and bootleg king all landed in AC. The liquor would be picked up where it came ashore and hauled to the distribution warehouses. Longie Zwillman employed AC cops to provide escort. Luciano would buy pure grain alcohol from Waxey Gordon's Philly crew that had infiltrated the industrial plants producing grain alcohol, legal under the Volstead Act. The liquor would be blended with the grain alcohol in one of Gordon's Philly or South Jersey plants, rebottled and relabeled and stored in Luciano's warehouses, many near AC. Frank Costello brought slot machines to the trendy gambling halls in AC. Around 9/16 or 17/1923 Nucky met with Luciano and Adonis and hammered out a deal whereby Luciano had exclusive importing rights in AC, Costello could bring in unlimited slots, and Luciano could operate gambling spots near the larger hotels; Nucky got 10% of everything the NY syndicate made = not only liquor, but all the rackets. Each NY partner, i.e. Luciano, Costello, Meyer Lansky, Bugsy Siegel and Joe Adonis, each contributed a portion of the 10%. In addition, Luciano needed an immediate shipment and Nucky arranged for the next shipment, coming in 2 days, to be ambushed. In Egg Harbor, 3 cars with 10 men including Luciano, Siegel, Adonis and Lansky, cut down a tree and blocked the road at 2 AM. Two trucks, operated by a rival NY gang, were ambushed, one guy was killed, one wounded and the rest viciously beaten and left at the roadside. AC funneled 40% of all liquor consumed in the US during Prohibition. (pp. 46-52)

First ever LCN convention called by Luciano, Al Capone, Frank Costello and Meyer Lansky in AC during the second week of May, 1929. NY - Lansky, Luciano, Costello, Adonis, Anastasia, Dutch Schultz, Frank Scalise and Vince Mangano; Cleveland - Morris "Moe" Dalitz and Louis Rothkopf; Boston - Charles "King" Solomon; Detroit - several of the Purple Gang; Kansas City - Johnny Lazia as Jim Pendergast's surrogate; Philly = Waxey Gordon, Max "Boo-Boo" Hoff, Harry Stronberg, Nig Rosen; north Jersey - Zwillman and Willie Moretti; and Chicago - Capone and Jake "Greasy Thumb" Guzik. Lansky and his new bride Anna Citron, stayed in the Presidential Suite at the Ritz-Carlton, rest at the President Hotel and the Ambassador. Capone brought Moses Annenberg, owner of Daily Racing Forms, to AC. They devised a way to control the horse-betting results throughout the country and it was successfully marketed to all the crime bosses. The "Trust" wire service was subscribed to by every big-city boss and only

their gambling dens and bookie joints could receive the wire; creating a sprawling, illegal monopoly that grew to include Cuba, Canada and Mexico. Annenberg dies in 1942 as the 5th-richest man in the world. (pp. 53-54)

In AC, protection by the police was obtained according to type: horse rooms paid \$160.00 per week, numbers banks paid \$100.00 weekly and brothels paid \$100.00 weekly in the Summer and half that in the Winter. The US Treasury investigated Nucky in the early 1930s and the result of an intense 5-month investigation is the "Johnson" report which includes descriptions of horse rooms in the section "Investigation of Horse-Race Betting Rooms and Gambling Casinos," (of various sizes, some were two floors with high rollers upstairs, all had a blackboard where the odds were recorded and equipped with loudspeakers tapped into the "Trust" broadcasting the races. Part of the room partitioned off for employees to deal with customers through betting windows and a cashier's window. Almost all were fronted by a cigar store.) (pp. 60-63)

Skinny D'Amato's 500 Club rumored to be owned, sub-rosa, by Marco Reginelli of Camden, boss of Philly LCN before Angelo Bruno circa 1944. (p. 76)

December 1946 - LCN convention at Hotel Nacional, Havana (owned by Fulgencio Batista and Meyer Lansky). Luciano had been imprisoned in 1936 at Dannemora and subsequently deported to Italy. He travelled from Genoa to Sicily to Naples, planning his escape and return to, or near, the US in the Fall of 1946. Lansky called for the December convention. 4 floors of the hotel reserved for the LCN - no women allowed - convention, including Adonis, Anastasia, Joe "Bananas" Bonanno, Costello, Tommy "Three Finger Brown" Luchese, Willie Moretti and Lansky. Chicago sent Charles and Rocco Fischetti, brothers and cousins and heirs of Capone. Business included revelations of Bugsy Siegel's as Vegas Flamingo cost overruns and his 'skimming' from both the LCN investments and the legitimate Hollywood investors and stashing the money in a Swiss bank account. Unanimous vote - Charles Fischetti assassinated Siegel In June 1947 at the Beverly Hills mansion of his mistress, Virginia Hill. Frank Sinatra was invited as a cover - the gathering was in honor of the Italian-American from NJ. He travelled with the Fischetti brothers. (pp. 98-102)

Kefauver Crime Committee hearings - began May of 1950 in Miami. An antigambling Senate road show established by Senate Resolution 202 in January 1950 the called for the investigation of interstate gambling and racketeering, later expanded to include prostitution, narcotics, loan-sharking, organized crime, extortion and labor racketeering. Involved more than a dozen cities: Miami, Washington, DC, Tampa, Kansas City, St. Louis, Chicago, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, NY (March 1951), Philly, Cleveland, Detroit, New Orleans (January 1951) and AC (July 1951). Set up at the Traymore Hotel. In AC interviewed "Stumpy" Orman, head of the rackets, Frank S. "Hap" Farley, state senator and AC political boss. Determined that Marco Reginelli of Camden headed the Philly-AC mob, with Stumpy Orman overseeing all the Atlantic County rackets for Reginelli. Special Committee to Investigate Organized Crime in Interstate Commerce - Estes Kefauver. (pp. 113-125)

1963 - RF Kennedy's AGO investigation - Joe Valachi, paid to testify before the Senate's Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, listed the 12 overlords of the Mafia families with Sam Giancana of Chicago as the major figure. (pp. 194-5)